

SECRET

GRS 200

SECRET

FM CAIRO

SEP 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 494 OF 5 SEPTEMBER

INFO WASR NGTON

MY TELNO 492

1. AN OFFICER FROM EGYPTIAN GENERAL INTELLIGENCE TELEPHONED A MEMBER OF MY STAFF THIS MORNING AND ASKED THAT THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO REPORT ANY QUOTE INCIDENTS UNQUOTE OR THREAT OF INCIDENTS DIRECTED AGAINST EGYPTIAN INTERESTS IN THE UK. THE OFFICER COMMENTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ARREST OF MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION IN CAIRO AND THE MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT SADAT THIS EVENING THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF ANTI-EGYPTIAN DEMONSTRATIONS OR MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS ABROAD.

2. THE EGYPTIANS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE EVIDENCE OF A SPECIFIC THREAT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION FIGURES IN THE UK (NOTABLY ABD AL-MAGID FARID OF THE ARAB RESEARCH CENTRE) AND THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE MANY DISSIDENTS AMONG THE EGYPTIAN STUDENT COMMUNITY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR TWO OF THOSE DUE FOR ARREST IN EGYPT MAY BE IN LONDON.

3. THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE CONSULTED US IN THIS UNPRECEDENTED FASHION ABOUT WHAT THEY WOULD NORMALLY TREAT AS A STRICTLY INTERNAL MATTER SUGGESTS SOME APPREHENSION LEST THE EFFECTS OF SADAT'S CURE MAY NOT PROVE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE. MOST OBSERVERS SEEM TO THINK THAT THE SCALE OF THE OPERATION HAS BEEN GROSSLY OVER-DONE.

WEIR

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