

GRS 748

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FM CAIRO 151035Z OCT 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 587 OF 15 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY AMMAN, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI,

WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (FOR D14)

SAVING EC POSTS, ALL OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

See paragraph 5 particularly
wm
16/81

mb

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK

1. AT 12.20PM LOCAL TIME ON 14 OCTOBER HUSNI MUBARAK WAS DULY SWORN IN AS THE FOURTH PRESIDENT OF EGYPT AT A JOINT SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND SHURA COUNCIL.

2. EARLIER THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, DR SUFI ABU TALEB, HAD READ OUT A STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM ON 13 OCTOBER, WHICH ENDORSED THE NOMINATION OF MUBARAK AS PRESIDENT BY THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON 7 OCTOBER. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY, THE TOTAL VOTES CAST WERE 9,754,766 (81.03%) OF THE 12,038,462 REGISTERED VOTERS, OF WHICH THOSE IN FAVOUR WERE 9,567,904 (98.46%), WITH 149,650 VOTES AGAINST. THE FIGURES FOR VOTES CAST AND VOTES IN FAVOUR ARE LOWER, AND FOR VOTES AGAINST HIGHER, THAN HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY IN RECENT EGYPTIAN REFERENDUMS, SUGGESTING THAT MUBARAK MAY BE KEEN TO NARROW THE GAPS BETWEEN PSEPHOLOGICAL FACT AND FICTION. OBSERVATION ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE AUTHORITIES' EFFORTS TO MOBILISE MORE VOTERS ON THIS OCCASION WERE AT LEAST PARTIALLY REWARDED: NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED A STEADY TRICKLE OF VOTERS AT SOME POLLING STATIONS, INCLUDING MRS SADAT AND FAMILY AND (ODDLY) NUMEIRI.

3. WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THE ADDRESS GIVEN TO THE JOINT SESSION BY PRESIDENT NIMEIRI (MY TELNO 588, NOT TO ALL).

4. IN HIS 55 MINUTE SPEECH MUBARAK, AFTER PAYING FULSOME TRIBUTE TO SADAT AS HIS MENTOR AND TO SADAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS, SPOKE OF HIS GRATITUDE FOR NIMEIRI'S SYMPATHY AND THANKED SULTAN QABOOS AND SOMELI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE FOR SHARING EGYPT'S MOURNING IN TRUE ARAB TRADITION. HE ALSO THANKED THE PRESIDENTS, KINGS AND DELEGATIONS WHO HAD ATTENDED THE FUNERAL.

5. **IN THE REST OF HIS SPEECH MUBARAK MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:**

(A) THE PRESIDENCY. SADAT HAD PLANNED TO RETIRE NEXT YEAR, THE ONE DECISION OF SADAT'S WHICH MUBARAK HAD OPPOSED. MUBARAK WOULD SHOULDER HIS RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LATE LEADER.

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(B) INTERNAL. EGYPTIAN WAS NOBODY'S DEBTOR. UNDER MUBARAK THERE WOULD BE NO HYPOCRISY, NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN RULER AND RULED, RICH AND POOR, GREAT AND SMALL. THE SWORD OF THE LAW WOULD DEAL WITH ALL EQUALLY. FREEDOM CONSISTED IN RESPECTING THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS. THOSE WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE IN VIOLATING THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD REALISE THAT THE STRONGEST FIRE WAS THE PEOPLE. MUBARAK WOULD APPLY THE EMERGENCY DECREE ONLY TO THE LIMITED EXTENT NECESSARY.

(C) ECONOMIC STABILITY. NATIONAL PROGRESS DEPENDED LARGELY ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE INFITAH POLICY WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE INCREASED, AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY ENGAGED. ARAB AND FOREIGN CAPITAL WOULD BE ATTRACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EGYPT'S PRIORITIES.

(D) PEACE. EGYPTIAN WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE COMPLETE AND LASTING PEACE ACCORDING TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND THE PEACE TREATY. SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE BELONGED TO 42 MILLION EGYPTIANS AND ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. IN PURSUING THE AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS, EGYPT WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO SECURE FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. EGYPT WOULD RESPECT ALL HER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND EXPECTED OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI ON 25 APRIL 1982 WOULD BE COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE.

(E) THE SECURITY FORCES. MUBARAK PRAISED THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE FOR SAFEGUARDING THE RULE OF LAW, AND THE PEOPLE AND LAND OF EGYPT. THE FACT THAT ONE TRAITOR OUT OF THOUSANDS OF HEROES HAD STEPPED OUT OF LINE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARMY.

6. MUBARAK SPOKE SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY FROM A WRITTEN TEXT IN CLASSICAL DICTION, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO SADAT'S EMOTIONAL COLLOQUIAL EXTEMPORISING. THE SPEECH WAS CLEAR AND WELL ORDERED AND, WITH MORE DEMONSTRATIVE DELIVERY, WOULD HAVE BEEN A STATESMAN-LIKE PERFORMANCE. BUT MUBARAK WAS DIGNIFIED AND PURPOSEFUL, AND ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION CONCILIATORY AS WELL AS FIRM. HE HAS MADE A GOOD BEGINNING.

7. THE PRESIDENCY YESTERDAY CONFIRMED THAT THE CABINET WOULD REMAIN THE SAME, WITH ONE OR TWO MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN TITLES AND DUTIES (DETAILS BY BAG).

FCO PSE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

WEIR

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

FCO WHITEHALL
NENAD

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