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CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 050319Z FEB 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 366 OF 4 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE CAIRO

PRIORITY TEL AVIV

ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK JEDDA AMMAN DAMASCUS BEIRUT TRIPOLI

INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS PARIS ROME BONN

PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. DRAPER, STATE DEPARTMENT, BRIEFED US TODAY ON MUBARAK'S VISIT. IN ADDITION TO TWO SESSIONS OF TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND A WHITE HOUSE DINNER, MUBARAK HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH BUSH, HAIG, WEINBERGER, REGAN AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. HE IS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB TOMORROW.

IMMEDIATE

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2. THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE VISIT HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. MUBARAK HAD BEEN IMPRESSIVE - VIGOROUS, ARTICULATE AND MORE SELF-ASSURED THAN THE AMERICANS HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEN HIM. HE CLEARLY KNEW HIS OWN MIND AND HAD RESPONDED BLUNTLY TO SOME SHARP QUESTIONING FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (HE ADVISED ONE CONGRESSMAN WHO WAS ARGUING FOR US BASES IN SINAI TO QUOTE GO BUY A MAP UNQUOTE). DRAPER ADDED THAT MUBARAK HAD SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING HIS OWN UNOSTENTATIOUS AND LOW-KEY IMPRINT ON THE VISIT, FOR EXAMPLE BY WEARING A LOUNGE SUIT TO THE PRESIDENTS BLACK TIE DINNER AND BY NOT OFFERING A RETURN DINNER.

3. MUBARAK HAD BEEN ANXIOUS TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THE AMERICANS DID NOT NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE GENERAL TENOR OF EGYPTIAN POLICY. THE PURCHASE OF MIRAGES, THE RETURN OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS AND RELAXATION OF ARRANGEMENTS ON THE EGYPT/LIBYA BORDER WOULD NOT AFFECT EGYPT'S CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE US. EQUALLY, MUBARAK HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT EGYPT WOULD MAINTAIN HER IDENTITY - THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF A CLIENT STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US - AND WOULD FROM TIME TO TIME SAY THINGS WHICH WERE NOT STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMERICAN POLICY.

4. ON THE PEACE PROCESS MUBARAK ACCEPTED THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT CAMP DAVID WAS STILL THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN AND REAFFIRMED EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THE AUTONOMY TALKS AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD WITHDRAW AND SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW EGYPT/ISRAELI RELATIONS TO DETERIORATE, THOUGH HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE MORE OUTSPOKEN ABOUT ISRAELI ACTIONS AFTER 25 APRIL. BOTH IN PUBLIC AND IN THE PRIVATE TALKS, MUBARAK SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN ENTITY AND FOR A US/PLO DIALOGUE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF MUTUAL AND SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION BY THE ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS. THIS ECHOES THE LINE TAKEN BY SADAT ON HIS VISIT HERE LAST AUGUST, BUT THE REFERENCE TO A PALESTINIAN ENTITY IS NEW.

5. THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES, INCLUDING POLAND AND AFGHANISTAN. MUBARAK HAD ARGUED VIGOROUSLY BOTH WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE HILL FOR MORE US AID TO SUDAN AND SOMALIA. ON LIBYA MUBARAK HAD GENTLY EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE VISIBILITY OF THE US POSITION MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND FEED QADHAFI'S EGO. MUBARAK HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TOO ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE ARAB GULF STATES, ESPECIALLY IN THE WAKE OF THE IRANIAN SPONSORED COUP ATTEMPT IN BAHRAIN. HE HAD QUESTIONED QUOTE TO SOME DEGREE UNQUOTE US MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE REGION AND HAD MADE THE POINT THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY TO MAKE PROGRESS WITHOUT A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL STRATEGY.

6. DRAPER SAID THAT THE AMERICANS DID NOT EXPECT MUBARAK TO RUSH INTO THE ARMS OF THE MODERATE ARABS AFTER 25 APRIL. HE WAS IN NO HURRY AND EGYPTIAN PRIDE IN ANY CASE DICTATED THAT THE OTHER ARABS SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVES. MUBARAK HAD WARNED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO SAY THINGS ABOUT THE FAHD PLAN WHICH WERE DIVERGENT FROM THE US POSITION, BUT HAD ADDED THAT THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY SUCH STATEMENTS AS IMPLYING A WEAKENED EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO CAMP DAVID.

7. MUBARAK HAD ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES. AN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ON 5 FEBRUARY: IT WILL NOTE PROPOSED EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC REFORMS AND WILL INDICATE THAT THE US ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMME SHOULD BE SHAPED TO ASSIST THEM (THOUGH DRAPER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE AID WAS NOT CONDITIONAL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS). IN EFFECT THIS MEANS THAT, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, US AID FUNDS WILL BE DIVERTED FROM SPECIFIC PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND DEVOTED TO SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN POLICIES IN SUCH SECTORS AS EDUCATION AND HOUSING. MORE FUNDS WITHIN THE US AID PROGRAMME WILL BE EARMARKED FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES (IE ALMOST ANY IMPORT FROM THE US). AGREEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN REACHED ON THE PROVISION OF DOLLARS 275 MILLION UNDER THE PL 480 PROGRAMME: THIS WILL GIVE THE EGYPTIANS RATHER MORE THAN DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION TONNES OF WHEAT WHICH THEY WERE PROMISED.

8. MUBARAK HAD COMPLAINED OVER THE TERMS OF US MILITARY AID AND THE LONG DELIVERY TIMES. (MUBARAK TOLD THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO BUY MIRAGES ONLY BECAUSE IT TOOK SO LONG TO ACQUIRE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT). THE AMERICANS HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE DOLLARS 1.3 BILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR FY 83 (AN INCREASE OF DOLLARS 400 MILLION ON THE FY 82 FIGURE) OF WHICH DOLLARS 400 MILLION WOULD BE VIRTUALLY FREE GRANTS. DRAPER SAID THAT MUBARAK WOULD BE ABLE TO PORTRAY THIS AS A CONSIDERABLE CONCESSION AND THAT IT WOULD ALLOW THE EGYPTIANS TO PLACE MILITARY ORDERS EARLIER.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT RAS BANAS, DRAPER CONFIRMED THAT THE AMERICANS DID NOT EXPECT TO ACHIEVE A WRITTEN AGREEMENT. THERE HAD BEEN AN INCONCLUSIVE EXCHANGE ABOUT WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO MAKE MORE USE OF FACILITIES AT CAIRO WEST, WHERE THE US HAVE HITHERTO PLANNED ONLY TO PREPOSITION AVIATION FUEL. THE AMERICANS WOULD BE FOLLOWING THIS UP.

10. DRAPER SUMMED UP THAT THE VISIT HAD GONE VERY WELL. THE AMERICANS HAD TAKEN SOME PAINFUL DECISIONS, GIVEN CURRENT PRESSURES ON THE BUDGET, TO GIVE MUBARAK MOST OF WHAT HE WANTED IN THE BILATERAL CONTEXT AND THE EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN APPRECIATIVE. OUR CONTACTS ON THE HILL SUGGEST THAT THERE, TOO, MUBARAK MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION.

FCO PASS SAVING TO:- PARIS BONN ROME ABU DHABI ADEN ALGIERS  
BAGHDAD BAHRAIN DOHA DUBAI JERUSALEM KHARTOUM KUWAIT MUSCAT  
RABAT SANAA TUNIS

HENDERSON

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