

NSC / 1225 / 061 } Chron

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

May 7, 1973

Samuelson / Newber

NSA review completed

PRESIDENT'S TUESDAY BRIEFING

For HAK

(I've recognize the ~~the~~ imprecision of reports like this but thought you should be aware of the following

The Soviets and the Mid East: In recent days we have received a

MORI/CDF per C03326384

number of reports which ~~combine to~~ suggest ~~here~~ that the Soviets

are trying to caution Egypt against renewed hostilities and that

they are doing this through third parties, notably the Syrians who

have played an intermediary role before. There is also the related

report that Syrian President Asad made a secret trip to Moscow

last week ~~to discuss military matters~~;

some Arab press accounts ~~are saying~~ Asad returned from Moscow and immediately ~~ordered~~

^{ever} called off ~~any~~ Syrian-based fedayeen ^{from any further} activity in the current ^{last week's} Lebanese ~~confrontation~~ ^{situation}.

The Soviets have also reportedly asked the French to counsel

Egypt against any renewed armed action.

^{we have no basis for} It is perhaps ^{ing} too early to assess ^{get} these indicators. ^{is} However,

Such a Soviet effort would not be inconsistent with the ^{is apparent efforts} ~~kind of lower~~

~~level tension and propaganda points they make in fanning indirectly~~

~~inter-Arab and anti-US tensions, arising from the cycle of terrorism.~~ ^{to} ^{after the Israeli raid on Beirut.}

Rather, the Soviets, on the broader issue of war with Israel, may be

~~deeply concerned at~~ ^{the} ~~the noticeable inter-Arab efforts in recent months~~ ^{weeks to}

The combined circumstances now of (1)

build up Egyptian and Syrian military capability, ⁽²⁾ ~~along with~~ Sadat's
increasing ~~public~~ talk of "some" action to break the stalemate ~~and~~
~~private~~ or, at a minimum, to draw attention of the US and USSR
with particular reference to the June summit, and ~~the combined~~ ^{(3) the facts fact}
~~circumstances that~~ ^{that both} Egyptian and Syrian military ^{(forces are} ~~units~~ at a very
high state of alert.

Att: CIB, 5/5/73, pgs. 2 and 3
CIB, 5/7/73, p.5
FBIS 57, 5/6/73
FBIS 29, 5/7/73

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