

ROUTING

Top Secret

217

(Security Classification)

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday February 4, 1977

CG NIDC 77-028C

State Department review completed

[Redacted]

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION  
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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EGYPT: Sadat Lays Down the Law

[redacted] President Sadat failed to offer any quick or easy remedies to the economic hardships facing the Egyptian people in a major address yesterday. The speech--billed as Sadat's response to the riots that shook Egypt some two weeks ago--stuck to the themes presented earlier in the week during the President's meetings with groups of educators, students, and workers. At those gatherings, Sadat blamed the disturbances on a conspiratorial leftist minority.

[redacted] In a vote of confidence for the most prominent members in his government, Sadat offered public thanks to Vice President Mubarak, War Minister Gamasi and Prime Minister Salim for their help in controlling the civil unrest. During the demonstrations, the Prime Minister was widely blamed for Egypt's economic ills and there were some calls for his resignation. Sadat is more dependent than ever on the influence that these men have within the military and security services.

[redacted] Sadat promised that his government would concentrate on providing housing and food, and would strengthen measures to collect taxes from the rich. Lacking anything more concrete in the way of immediate relief, Sadat stated he would allow no repetition of the disturbances and would present a tough law-and-order bill for public referendum next week.

[redacted] The new security measures are not likely to set well with some Egyptians, particularly students and other politically sophisticated groups which have enjoyed greater freedoms under Sadat's recent political liberalization program.

[redacted] A major test of Sadat's get-tough policy will occur on February 12, when Egypt's schools are scheduled to reopen after the midyear break. [redacted]