

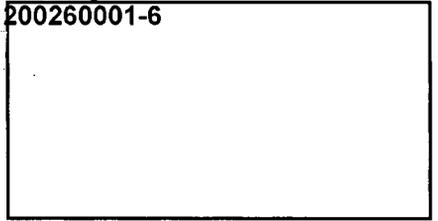


Director of
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[Redacted]

BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

ARAB STATES: Split at Baghdad Conference

The conference in Baghdad where Arab Foreign Ministers have been discussing measures against Egypt since Tuesday is bogged down by sharp differences between moderates and hardliners [Redacted]

[Redacted]

The participants adjourned until today for consultations with home governments. (C)

The Saudis have balked at an array of harsh reprisals pushed by the PLO and the hardliners, including the Iraqis. The Saudis and Arafat could smooth their differences before the conference is over [Redacted]

[Redacted]

If the Saudi position remains firm, the Iraqis and other hardliners might ultimately have to be satisfied with achieving a minimum consensus on sanctions. This might be accompanied by a general conference endorsement of undefined further action against Egyptian President Sadat by individual states so long as such action did not harm the Egyptian "people." [Redacted]

The moderates' resistance to the proposed harsh actions against Sadat pushed by Arab hardliners is due in part to a backlash against threats made last week by Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn. Saddam threatened to topple Arab rulers who offer even passive support to Sadat. His remarks seem to have rekindled fear of Iraqi subversive action among some of the moderate Arabs who had come to believe that Baghdad had shelved such tactics.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]