

~~TOP SECRET~~



Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030900010006-8
Central Intelligence ~~Top Secret~~



National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

29 November 1978

State Dept. review completed

~~Top Secret~~

CG NIDC 78-0277C

Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030900010006-8

Copy 623

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~Top Secret~~

ISRAEL: Arab Trends after Baghdad

[] Analysts of Israel's Foreign and Defense Ministries attribute the stiffening in Egyptian President Sadat's negotiating position on the linkage question primarily to his chagrin over the results of the Baghdad summit. Nevertheless, the Israelis do not expect that Arab opposition will deter Sadat from concluding a peace treaty and contend that his room for maneuver has not been seriously affected.

[] The Israeli analysis suggests that the Begin government sees no reason at present to make concessions to Sadat. The Israelis, in fact, believe that Sadat still expects that the Saudis and other major Arab leaders will eventually reconcile themselves to an Egyptian settlement with Israel.

[] In recent conversations with officials of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israeli officials also expressed doubt that moderate Arab states are really prepared to apply sanctions against Egypt in the event of a peace treaty with Israel. The Israelis anticipate that the Saudis will go to great lengths to head off serious attempts to punish Sadat.

[] In the Israelis' opinion, improvement in Syrian-Iraqi relations and the troubles in Iran have made the Saudis fearful of a new wave of Arab radicalism. The Israelis expect that the Saudis will conclude that they cannot now afford poor relations with Cairo and consequently will mend their fences with Sadat.

[] The Israeli analysts differ on the summit's impact on Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry analysts doubt that Syria's improved relations with Iraq will lead it to pursue a more aggressive policy in Lebanon. The military analysts take a worst-case view and speculate that the Syrians might now feel they have enough latitude to undertake a more assertive approach to the Maronite militias. []