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State Dept. review completed

FM CAIRO

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

IMMEDIATE

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FEBRUARY 6, 1974

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: AMBASSADOR EILTS, CAIRO 109

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY TONIGHT, HE ASKED ME TO PASS FOLLOWING ON TO YOU URGENTLY IN HIS DRINI

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IN THE SYRIAN PTW LIST IS NOT THE MAIN ISSUE IN THE CURRENT DISENGAGEMENT IMPASSE. BASED ON WHAT HE CALLED, HIS "FACTS AND CORRELATION OF FACTS," HE SUSPECTS A MORE SINISTER DESIGN. HE VIEWS PRESENT SITUATION AS AN "OUTSIDE" (READ USSR) STRATEGY TO PREVENT ASSAD OR SYRIA FROM ACHIEVING DISENGAGEMENT. HIS CONCLUSIONS ARE BASED PARTLY ON WHAT YOU INDICATED GROMYKO SAID ABOUT HENCEFORTH HANDLING EVERYTHING JOINTLY AND IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE SOVIETS, HE RECALLED, HAD WARNED THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD PROMPT THEM TO TAKE THEIR OWN DIPLOMATIC MOVES.

MORI C03352040

2. FAHMY NOTED THAT THE IRAQIS HAD YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE MOVED TWELVE THOUSAND TROOPS INTO SYRIA. ASSAD HAD IN THE PAST WEEK SECRETLY BEEN IN BAGHDAD. THERE IS AGAIN TALK OF A SYRIAN-IRAQI MERGER AND LIBYA IS COVERTLY HELPING TO EFFECT THIS. THE IRAQIS, IN FAHMY'S VIEW, WOULD BE UNABLE TO TAKE ANY SUCH ACTIONS UNLESS THEY ARE SOVIET INSPIRED. HE RECALLED IRAQI PRESSURE ON SYRIA DURING AND AFTER THE OCTOBER HOSTILITIES. THEY HAD EVEN INSISTED ON TRANSIT FEES ON BADLY NEEDED PETROLEUM EXPORTED FROM KUWAIT TO SYRIA. NOW SUDDENLY, ACCORDING TO "BRITISH" SOURCES, THE IRAQI ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE CHANGING. THE SAUDIS HAVE ALSO NOTICED THIS AND ARE CONCERNED.

3. FAHMY RECALLED THAT YOU HAD ONCE TOLD SADAT AND HIM THAT IN THE EVENT OF DIFFICULTY WITH IRAQ, YOU WOULD QUICKLY BE ABLE

***** W H S R C O M M E N T *****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN

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TO ARRANGE IRANIAN COUNTER PRESSURE. THIS IS THE TIME TO DO
SO HE URGED, IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE IRAQIS FROM PRESSING
SYRIA AND TO "CLIP THE SOVIET WINGS." THE IRANIANS SHOULD
MOVE FAST AND IN A CONTROLLED FASHION. THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE
NEWS COVERAGE OF IRANIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS ALONG THE IRAQI
BORDER SO THAT THE IRAQIS FEEL COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW THEIR ARMY.
ONLY IF THE SYRIANS ARE NOT BACKED BY THE IRAQIS, FAHMY INSISTED,
WAS THERE ANY CHANCE OF ASSAD BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE. HE
HOPED YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE FAST ON THIS.

4. FAHMY WAS CONCERNED THAT NO ONE BUT YOU KNOW ABOUT
ABOVE RECOMMENDATION. HE EVEN TOOK PAINS TO CONCEAL IT FROM
HIS TRUSTED AIDE, OMAR SIRRI.

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