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TO : *1968-3-21, Nasser, US, Israel*

NEA - Ambassador Battle

FROM :
SUBJECT:

NEA/UAR - Richard B. Parker *RP*

Nasser's Dark View

DATE: March 21, 1968

Last week Nasser made a series of visits to troop units in the Canal Zone and elsewhere, apparently attempting to buck up morale and to improve the government's image in the wake of the recent trials and criticism of military leaders. I do not know how successful he was, but in all of the pictures I have seen in al-Ahram the men being addressed looked pretty solemn and fairly unenthusiastic.

In reading Nasser's remarks, I was struck by his frequent references to the United States as being the villain which supports Israel and encourages it to be intransigent. This is not news, but reflects the mythology which has developed to explain Egypt's inability to recover lost territory - it has to fight the United States and Israel. The following are selected examples:

"Actually, we did not reject the Security Council resolution but stated that the resolution was inadequate and ambiguous. The United States, which helped Israel with all means, was trying to achieve Israel's objectives at the United Nations so that a resolution would not be passed containing specific stipulations on the necessity of Israel's withdrawal to its 5 June positions. The United States began to exert pressure until that vague resolution was passed.

Nevertheless, we did not reject the resolution. But the United States is making further attempts to place us in a humiliating position, in a position of defeat and capitulation, so we will submit to Israel's conditions, agree to negotiate with it, and agree to sign a peace (sulh) treaty with Israel.

The matter is no longer a question of the Security Council resolution and its implementation. The target is clear: The goal of the United States is to humiliate the Arabs."

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