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By AC. NARA Date 7/25/01

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State

TELEGRAM

31

1968-3-21, Nasser, Zakariya, Resignation

CONFIDENTIAL 743

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45 ACTION NEA 15

INFO CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 03,H 02,INR 07,L 03,NSAE 00,NSC 10,P 04,

RSC 01,SC 01,SP 02,SS 20,USIA 12,SAH 03,CU 04,SIL 01,LAB 06,

SSC 01,RSR 01,FILE 01,/097 W

3/21/68

R 210910Z MAR 68

FM CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1948

1. RESIGNATION OF ZAKARIYAH MUHYEDDINE CAME AS DEEP PERSONAL SHOCK. HE REPRESENTED MUCH OF THE REST IN THE EGYPTIAN CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY.

2. THERE HAD BEEN RUMORS OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS THAT EITHER ZAKARIYAH WOULD BE PUT IN FULL CHARGE OF THINGS OR WOULD GET OUT. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT NASSER MAY HAVE CONSIDERED FORMER COURSE. BUT PEOPLE NOTED ZAKARIYAH'S ABSENCE FROM OFFICIAL QURBAN BAIRAM PRAYERS. STORY IS THAT ZAKARIYAH WENT TO HIS DELTA VILLAGE TO SPEND BAIRAMHOLIDAYS AND IS REMAINING THERE.

3. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, THERE ARE JUST ABOUT AS MANY STORIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF RESIGNATION FLOATING AROUND CAIRO AS THERE ARE INTERLOCUTORS.

4. DO NOT THINK CABINET CHANGES IN THEMSELVES WERE CAUSE OF

PAGE 2 RUEIVCR 1948 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RESIGNATION. BRINGING FOURTEEN AMIABLE NON-ENTITIES INTO GOVERNMENT WAS HARDLY A THRILLING DEVELOPMENT, BUT NEITHER DO WE THINK IT WAS REASON FOR BREAK BETWEEN ZAKARIYAH AND NASSER.

(1)

5. ONE STORY HAS IT THAT NASSER FIRED ZAKARIYAH OUT OF PIQUE

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