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SUBJ: Call by Kuwaiti Ambassador on Asst. Secretary Sisco

### EXDIS

SUMMARY: Kuwait Ambassador Ghoussein called on Asst. Secretary Sisco May 4 for general tour d'horizon. Sisco ~~gave him purpose~~ discussed his recent area trip, and stated implications of participation Soviet pilots in UAR air defense were still under study. He emphasized to Ghoussein clear evidence USG support for territorial integrity all nations in area.

1. Sisco said that his recent visit to area capitals amply confirmed to him there no substitute for face-to-face discussions. UAR leadership had given him ~~warm~~ cordial welcome. In Cairo he had sought to eliminate at least some misunderstandings USG positions and thereby lessen, to degree possible, distrust in minds UAR leadership of USG intentions towards

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NEA - Mr. Atherton  
S/S - Mr. Lloyd

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TELEGRAM

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PAGE TWO

peace settlement. He told Nasser, and said he would be repeating the same message to Israeli Prime Minister Meir, that there would be no peace in foreseeable future as long as both sides stuck to their maximal positions on refugees, territorial changes, and negotiations. He found it encouraging that no party in area had written off USG role in helping bring about peace settlement.

2. Sisco said he had left no doubt USG supported existence and security of Israel. At same time he had sought to counter the UAR conviction that USG totally committed to Israeli side by detailing three decisions of Nixon Administration in which USG had disassociated itself from Israeli positions. These were decisions to enter Two- and Four-Power talks, to put forward the October and December formulations and not to provide additional Phantom aircraft to Israel at this time.

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PAGE THREE

3. Re Jordan, Sisco said he regretted his visit to Amman had proved impossible but assured Ghoussein that talks were in train to clear up any misunderstandings.
4. Ghoussein said he had been very pleased to read Sisco's public statements about importance of Palestinians to peace settlement. Saying he was speaking as ex-Palestinian rather than Kuwait Ambassador, Ghoussein stressed Palestinians could assist but more importantly could frustrate peace settlement. In latter case even full agreement between Hussein and Nasser on settlement terms with Israel could founder on Palestinian objections. Sisco said question arises which Palestinians would be consulted. Problem is amorphous nature of Palestinian groups and leadership. Ghoussein acknowledged this but warned that passage of time would radicalize even the relative moderates among Palestinian spokesmen such as Fatah and PLO leadership.
5. Sisco said USG happy to see progress on resolving

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PAGE FOUR

7

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Status of Bahrain and expressed support for continued movement towards federation among Gulf states. On Yemen, he asked Ghousein relay to GOK USG hope that GOK would review YARG financial plight to see how GOK might be of assistance. Ghousein agreed to report this to Kuwait.

6. Asked about USG reactions to Soviet pilot participation in UAR air defense, Sisco said we were still engaged in full review ordered by President. He noted, however, that participation of Soviet pilots had ~~been~~ injected new factor to equation. There were two questions involved: Effect of this development on relative military capabilities and what this participation indicated of intentions of both Soviets and UAR. Sisco noted that one element in President's March decision not to provide further Phantom aircraft to Israel had been our assessment that qualitative superiority of Israeli Air Force compensated for its quantitative inferiority. While effect of Soviet participation on capabilities UAR air defense now had to be weighed, even more important was ]

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