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7:30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

1974-4-12: Assad,  
Shihabi in Wash.

W/S/S April 12, 1974

CONFIDENTIAL

To: P - Mr. Sisco

From: NEA - Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.

Dinner Honoring General Shihabi, Head of  
Syrian Delegation in Washington at 7:30 P.M.

Owing to the rescheduling of General Shihabi's meeting with the Secretary from Friday afternoon to Saturday morning, your dinner will take place before the Secretary's first substantive conversation with the General. We assume that during the dinner you will not get into the substance of the negotiations but will want to keep your approach informal and general.

Suggested remarks for a toast, should you want to make one, are attached at Tab A. Some conversational themes you might want to pursue are as follows:

-- General Shihabi's previous stay in the United States, where he was a student at the U. S. Air Force Meteorological School at Chanute Field, Illinois during 1956-57;

-- our interest in promoting economic development in the countries of the Middle East (General Shihabi is said to have a particular interest in pursuing long term economic and social development for Syria). In this connection, you might want to praise the constructive steps taken by President Asad in recent years both as regards development projects and the liberalization of the Syrian economy to promote increased foreign trade and tourism;

-- our friendship toward Syria and support and respect for its independence, and our readiness to extend our field of bilateral cooperation, particularly as concerns cultural and economic matters;

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GDS--DECLAS. Dec. 31, 1980

MICROFILMED  
BY S/SI

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-- the fine job that Dr. Kabbani has done in the brief time that he has been here and the respect for and confidence in him that all of us in the Department have.

One of the things General Shihabi is likely to be particularly interested in is the effect of the current governmental crisis in Israel on the negotiating process. While this will no doubt be a matter for discussion with the Secretary on Saturday morning, you might want to give Shihabi some general background on the developments in Israel.

The Secretary's office has confirmed that he will receive General Shihabi for a brief courtesy call at some point this evening prior to your dinner. An officer from NEA/ARN will be downstairs to greet the Syrian delegation at the appropriate time and accompany them to the Secretary's office. Assuming that the courtesy call immediately precedes your dinner, the Syrian guests will then be led to the Secretary's Dining Room. (As Secretary Kissinger's schedule for Friday evening is still not final, we cannot definitely confirm that his private dining room will be available; should it not be, the dinner will be held in the Henry Clay Dining Room. You will be notified when we have final word from the Secretary's office.)

A revised guest list for the dinner is at Tab C. As General Scowcroft and Mr. Saunders were unable to accept your invitation, Ambassador Buffum and Mr. Maw have been invited and accepted. We have little biographic data on Mr. Abdul Karim Sabbagh, the Deputy Chief of the Syrian Interests Section who only recently arrived in Washington, but from the warmth of the greeting he exchanged at the airport with Shihabi on the General's arrival it is obvious that they are old friends. Sabbagh says he served in the Syrian Embassy in Madrid from 1970 to 1972 and was an aide to Foreign Minister Khaddam from 1972 until coming to Washington.

You will note that the General's name is spelled Chahabi on the seating chart and on his name card; this

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\* see of now, set for 6:30 p.m.

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Suggested Toast

is because he himself uses this spelling (from the French phonetic transliteration of his name) on his own cards.

... me to welcome you to the United States, General Shihabi. I know this is not the first time you have been here, and I hope that you will not be here in the future between your visits.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Toast
- Tab B - Biographic Sketch of General Shihabi
- Tab C - Guest List for Dinner
- Tab D - Menu
- Tab E - Seating Chart

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Drafted: NEA/ARN:DAKorn:TMDeford:gcb  
ext 21019 4/12/74

LIST LIST FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S DINNER 7:30 P.M.APRIL 12Host  
Joseph J. Sisco

Under Secretary for Political Affairs

Syrian Guests(ushrooms served with hors d'oeuvres  
(ushrooms stuffed with cheese)Brig. Gen. Hikmat Khalil Chahabi - Chief of Staff for Intelligence  
Dr. Sabah Kabbani - Chief, Syrian Interests Section,  
Washington, D. C.Abdul Karim Sabbagh - Deputy Chief, Syrian Interests  
Section, Washington, D. C.Americans

Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker

Ambassador Robert J. McCloskey - Ambassador at Large

Carlyle E. Maw - Legal Adviser

William G. Hyland - Director, Bureau of

Intelligence and Research

Alfred L. Atherton, Jr. - Assistant Secretary-designate

Ambassador William B. Buffum - NEA

David A. Korn - Assistant Secretary, IO

Country Director, NEA/ARN

Camille Nowfel

Champagne will be served

\* \* \* \* \* - Arabic Interpreter

\* \* \* \* \* and cognac will be served

\* \* \* \* \* be table and cigar passed

MENU

Cocktails served with hors d'oeuvres  
(mushrooms stuffed with cheese)

\* \* \* \* \*  
consomme royale  
(with chicken pieces)

\* \* \* \* \*  
Tournedos Rossini

French green beans

baby white potatoes

white asparagus with hollandaise

bib lettuce salad with endive and watercress

red wine will be served

\* \* \* \* \*

fresh strawberries in pineapple and macaroons

champagne will be served

\* \* \* \* \*

coffee and cognac will be served  
at the table and cigar passed

Mr. Buffum

Mr. Maw

Mr. Sabbagh

T.H. Ellsworth Bunker

MR. SISCO

BRIGADIER CHAHABI

Dr. Kabbani

Mr. Nowfel

T.H. Robert J. McCloskey

Mr. Hyland

Mr. Atherton

Mr. Korn

Protocol  
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ENTRANCE