

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

1969-11-13, Nasser, Israel, war?

November 13, 1969

To : The Secretary
 Through: S/S
 From : INR - Ray S. Cline

RSO

Subject: UAR: Nasser's November 6 Speech - The Medium Buried the Message

President Nasser, in his bellicose speech of November 6, 1969, portrayed himself as a man reconciled to the "inevitability of the battle" against Israel -- a phrase he used several times. Obscured by his inflammatory rhetoric were hints, however slight, that he did not wish to bar the door completely to a political accommodation, and there have been some indications since the speech that Cairo fears that Nasser overplayed his belligerence and may be taken at his word.

What Nasser Said. It is difficult to miss the message Nasser intended to convey to his audience throughout the Arab world. In one of the key portions of his address, he charged that efforts to find a political solution have "up to this moment" proved fruitless. Given this failure, he asserted, the Arabs must conclude "that there is no longer any way out except to open our own road toward what we want by force...." He buttressed his statement and dusted off his pretensions to Arab leadership with a call for unity within Egypt and throughout the Arab world in preparation for the "battle." And, he argued that those who had "believed in the possibility of finding a peaceful solution have nothing to say now....," thereby warning remaining "doves" in the UAR and those Arab states which have sought to avoid the confrontation to toe the new belligerent line.

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