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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 323

Asmara 323
6-17-69

1. IN CONVERSATION DURING DINNER AT PALACE JUNE 16, GOVGEN ASRATE KASSA TOLD ME HE HAD OFFERED MEDIATE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WHEN HE SAW NASSER IN CAIRO LAST WEEK BUT WAS POLITELY TURNED DOWN. ASRATE ALLEGED NASSER'S DOMESTIC POSITION WITHIN UAR IS SHAKY, AND HE, THEREFORE, UNABLE ACCEPT DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL AT THIS TIME.

2. AT SAME PALACE SOIREE WHICH WAS SMALL AFFAIR HONORING SIR JOHN BAGGE, GOVGEN SAID HE PLANNING SEND DIPLOMATIC GOOD WILL MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT TO SEEK WIN COOPERATION AGAINST ELF. HE ADDED ASMARA POLICE RECENTLY CAPTURED ELF OPERATIVE FRESH FROM TWO YEARS TRAINING IN SYRIA, WHO HEAVILY INDOCTRINATED IN COMMUNISM AND WHO BRAGGED THAT CHICOMS HAVE STEPPED UP AID TO ELF. CAMPBELL

(3)

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