

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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① 1969-7-24, Nasser, Israel, war?

To : The Acting Secretary  
Through: S/S  
From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes *by h.c.d.l*

Subject: UAR: Nasser Places One Foot Firmly on Middle East Escalator

"New Stage" in the Confrontation With Israel. In a lengthy, convoluted and frequently rambling address to the National Congress of the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), Nasser declared on July 23 that the Egyptians "have resolved to fight to regain our land." Declining to present details of the military situation, which he said would be covered by War Minister Fawzi in a closed session of July 24, Nasser stated that the military confrontation along the Suez Canal had entered a new phase, which he contrasted with the phase of "passive defense" that characterized the situation in July 1968. In the present stage, Nasser announced, "we are embarking on the liberation operation." And, Nasser added, the objective is not the re-occupation of the Sinai alone, but the "liberation" of Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights (Syria), Gaza--"all the Arab territories." It is not clear from his speech whether he intended to limit the Arab land to be reclaimed to those portions specifically enumerated or whether he intended to suggest more extensive ambitions. The lack of clarity on this point may, in fact, have been deliberate.

War of Attrition Proposed. Though Nasser clearly committed the UAR to maintaining tensions along the Canal, he suggested that the struggle will be long and hard. The Six Day War, he argued, has not ended--"there is still the two-year, three-year and the four-year war." Egypt is prepared for an extended

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