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By AC. NARA Date 7/25/01

State

TELEGRAM

1968-12-21, Nasser, Shafie, conflict

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ACTION NEA 15

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

1. STRONG RUMORS GOING AROUND TOWN TO EFFECT THAT THERE IS GROWING ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN NASSER AND HUSSEIN SHAFEI. REPORTS HAVE IT THAT SHAFEI EXPRESSED VIEWS TO EFFECT THAT MANSOURA AND ALEXANDRIA RIOTS WERE AIMED DIRECTLY AT REGIME AND THAT REGIME SHOULD MEND ITS WAYS. SOME INFORMANTS SAY THAT SHAFEI IS UNDER A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST. HOWEVER, TODAY'S PRESS SHOWS PHOTOGRAPH OF SHAFEI STANDING NEAR NASSER AT YESTERDAY'S BAIRAM PRAYERS.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IT WAS FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATIONS THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO FALLING OUT BETWEEN NASSER AND MUHYIEDDINE AND LATTER'S RESIGNATION. WILL BE INTERESTING IF NOVEMBER DEMONSTRATIONS RESULT IN DEPARTURE OF SHAFEI. IT IS GETTING PRETTY LONELY AT THE TOP HERE IN EGYPT.

BERGUS

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