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Research Memorandum

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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To : The Secretary
 Through: S/S
 From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes *Thomas L. Hughes*
 Subject: UAR - Student Riots Symptomatic of Deepening Malaise

The recent student riots in the UAR have re-awakened the specter of internal turmoil. This paper examines the implications of these disturbances for UAR policy.

ABSTRACT

The Nasser regime's success in quelling the student riots which erupted in three Egyptian cities last week will do little to assuage student discontent or remove the threat of further student outbursts. The rapidity with which student disturbances in Al Mansurah mushroomed and began to spread, has clearly shaken the regime. The government is now engaged in a broadly-based campaign to discredit the elements considered responsible for the riots and to prevent a recurrence. Nevertheless, the regime will probably be unwilling or unable to take concrete steps to meet the more general student demands. The highly vaunted reorganization of the ASU, undertaken following student and worker riots last February, has apparently not satisfied most students, who probably share with other elements of Egyptian society a deep malaise resulting, at least in part, from the apparent stagnation in UAR policy both at home and abroad. The regime thus may regard the renewed student unrest as symptomatic of broader discontent. Yet, if the experience since last February is any guide, the regime will again resort to palliative measures and not make any bold new departures to deal with

its multiplying problems of either foreign or domestic policy.

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