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*Intelligence Note* - 644

1968-8-15, Nasser, Russia, Visit

August 15, 1968

To : The Secretary  
 Through: S/S  
 From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes *TH*

Subject: Nasser's Moscow Visit Underscores Soviet-Arab Incompatibilities  
 On Israel

POL 7 UAR

Certain conclusions about UAR President Nasser's July 4-10 talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow can now be drawn, although accounts of the visit are still fragmentary. Most important, the visit revealed more clearly a fundamental disagreement about Israel, primarily about the right to exist. Additionally, the Soviets, and Tito as well, reportedly cautioned Nasser not to resort to arms but to do everything in his power to insure the success of the Jarring mission. According to Yugoslav sources, Nasser indicated to Tito in Brioni that the Soviets had also turned down his request for additional offensive weapons. The Soviets may not have been completely negative, however, since UAR Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Riyadh remained in Moscow after Nasser's departure and returned to Cairo on July 18 accompanied by a Soviet military mission. These Soviet-UAR arms talks may be centered on what the Soviets regard as defensive weapons, the UAR's request for additional spares, and perhaps for some reduction in prices--which the Egyptians are known to have found high in some cases. On the whole, however, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Moscow talks ended without full agreement on a number of important aspects of the Soviet-UAR relationship, in particular the way out of the present Arab-Israeli impasse.

XR POL UAR-USSR, POL 27 ARAB-ISR

XR DEF 19-~~8~~ USSR-  
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