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 By AC. NARA Date 7/20/01

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Memorandum of Conversation

1968-7-23, Nasser, Russia, Israeli

DATE: July 23, 1968

SUBJECT: Nasser Visit to Moscow

PARTICIPANTS:

- Mr. Nissim Yaish, Counselor, Embassy of Israel
- Mr. Moshe Raviv (Mr. Yaish's successor)
- Mr. Richard B. Parker, Country Director NEA/UAR

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Mr. Raviv said that the Israelis had very little solid information on Nasser's visit to Moscow. They speculated from the communique that there had been some differences of opinion and thought these might have revolved around Nasser's pushing for a Security Council meeting, with the Soviets urging against it. They had no information to indicate that there had been any disagreement on military matters and assumed that General Riad had stayed behind to talk to Grechko about the details of additional arms deliveries.

Mr. Parker said that our own information was very limited, but our analysis was quite the opposite of the Israelis'. From all we could tell, there had been general agreement on political matters and on the need to continue the policy of cooperating with Jarring. In any event, we did not think a Security Council meeting was one of the issues because we had understood that the Egyptians had dropped this idea before going to Moscow. On the other hand, we suspected there had been some basic disagreement on the question of military assistance. We assumed Nasser had pushed the line that there would be no settlement until Egypt was in a position to confront Israel. That only then would the Israelis be prepared to compromise. We doubted that the Soviets had been willing to go along with this. Everything we heard in other capitals, including Washington, indicated that the Soviets were preaching moderation and were not interested in a resumption of fighting in the Middle East.

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