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Department of State

TELEGRAM

1968-4-11, Nasser, Israel, 242 Co Po/ 27 araf-15R

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ACTION NEA 15

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 03, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, IO 13, SAH 03, RSR 01, /096 W

R 111039Z APR 68
FM CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4593

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2100

1. NASSER SPEECH GIVEN TO HANDFUL ARAB LAWYERS APRIL 10 CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS A DISASTER. IT WILL NOT COMFORT HIS OWN PEOPLE, UNIFY ARAB WORLD, OR CONFOUND THE ISRAELIS. TO THE CONTRARY, IT WILL ONLY INCREASE ISRAEL CAPABILITY JUSTIFY ITS PRESENT RIGIDITY.

2. SALIENT POINTS WERE: 1) PRAISE AND PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE; AND 2) STATEMENT THAT ISRAELI HAD REJECTED NOV 22 SC RES, THEREFORE ONLY COURSE LEFT OPEN IS CONTINUATION OF THE BATTLE. ARABS NOW MUST UNITED TO "HOLD OUT AGAINST AND REPEL" ISRAEL AGGRESSION; NEXT STAGES ARE, RESPECTIVELY, "DETERRENCE" AND "VICTORY". (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY ISRAEL WILL STAND IDLY BY AS UNITED ARAB WORLD MOVES THROUGH THESE STAGES.)

3. SPEECH IS DISTURBING BECAUSE IT HAS THE QUALITY OF

PAGE 2 RUEIVCR 2100 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MESMERIZED UNREALITY WHICH APPEARED IN MAY 1967. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THOSE ELEMENTS OF EGYPTIAN SOCIETY WITH WHOM WE HAVE ANY CONTACT HAVE NO INTEREST IN RESUMING WAR. WE HAVE NO CONTACT WITH UAR MILITARY. IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT THEY ARE PRESSING HARD LINE? OR, IS NASSER READING OR MISREADING CORPUS OF SOVIET ASSURANCES TO HIM TO JUSTIFY BELIEF THAT UAR NOW SAFELY BEHIND SOVIET DETRIMENT SHIELD?

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4/11/68