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APRIL'S BRANCH

FROM : US Interests Section, Cairo, UAR DATE: April 9, 1968

SUBJECT: A Jordanian Student's Assessment of Current Student Attitudes in the UAR

ARMY	2	CIA	20	NAVY	5
OSD	34	USA	10	NSA	3
				ASC	6

The source of the information which follows is a Jordanian student at the Faculty of Fine Arts who has spent three years in Egypt. He is thirty years old which separates him somewhat from his fellow students who average about twenty two. He is a careful observer and reporter.

My purpose in visiting Sadiq, whom I have seen off and on for the past several months, was to ask him whether he knew any pro-Nasir students and, if so, whether he would be willing to attempt to arrange for me to talk to them. I explained that I was preparing a study of student attitudes which was becoming lop-sided because all the students whose views I had received were critical of Nasir's past performance and his proposed future program. I felt there must be others who felt differently. Sadiq opined that any intelligent and aware student I found would have negative opinions and that those students who were not negative had no real reasons for their point of view but were unthinking fellows who simply accepted what they read in the UAR press and parroted it back. He had no idea what proportion of all students these fellows might be and tended to dismiss them as of little consequence.

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According to Sadiq, there is a fundamental opposition to socialism, which he characterizes as "unnatural" in terms of Arab custom, religion and general way of thinking. People could live with this, however, if the system were properly run and produced sufficient benefits. Until the June war, most people had more or less accepted the system because they had blindly accepted the assertions of the regime that it was being well run and would produce benefits. Those who did not accept it were mainly those who had lost land, business or money as a result of socialist measures. A few intellectuals opposed the system because

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