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Authority: NND 9505
By: [signature]
Date: 10/20/01

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Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

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FM USINT CAIRO 03 JAN 74 Z16 37
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4894
BT
SECRET CAIRO 0034

HODIS/C H E R O K E E

EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR EG IS
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER FANMI TO THE
SECRETARY CONCERNING BLOCKING OF SUPPLY CONVOYS

1. OMAR SIRRI PHONED ME TODAY AT 1345 LOCAL AND ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS HOUSE RIGHT AWAY. HE SAID HE HAD AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR THE SECRETARY. HE SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS EAGER FOR THE MESSAGE TO BE SENT SO IT WAS STILL IN DRAFT FORM, BUT IF I WOULD COME OVER WE COULD WORK ON IT TOGETHER. THE DRAFT WAS ROUGH, BUT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE CHANGES WITHOUT FOMMIN'S CONCURRENCE SO THE FINAL IS NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THE DRAFT.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER, SIRRI COMMENTED THAT THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD AGAIN DECLINED TO LET US SUPPLY CONVOYS PASS TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE CANAL YESTERDAY AND TODAY WAS A VERY UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT. HE REPEATED HIS OFTEN STATED DOUBTS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE 6TH OF OCTOBER AND WERE REALLY READY FOR PEACE. THEIR ACTIONS DEMONSTRATE A LACK OF WILL TO OBSERVE ANY AGREEMENTS AND HE WAS PESSIMISTIC. I TOLD SIRRI THAT THESE ACTS WERE INDEED UNFORTUNATE BUT THAT IT WOULD SEEM IN A LARGER SENSE THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE VERY INTERESTED IN PEACE AND THAT WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: IN THE PAST, SIRRI HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED DOUBTS CONCERNING ISRAELI INTENTIONS AND HIS PRESENT PESSIMISM PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS OWN VIEWS AS MUCH AS THOSE OF THE GOE.

TEXT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

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-2- CAIRO 0034, JAN 03, NODIS/CHEROKEE

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

"I HAVE PREVIOUSLY ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS KEPT YOU INFORMED OF THE REPEATED PRACTICE OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO CREATE THROUGH ITS COMMANDERS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CANAL UNNECESSARY OBSTACLES TO IMPEDE THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIX-POINT AGREEMENT TO WHICH THEY ARE COMMITTED.

"AGAIN, SINCE YESTERDAY, THE ISRAELIS HAVE REFUSED TO LET THROUGH THE SUPPLIES TO THE 3RD ARMY ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CANAL. OUR MILITARY PEOPLE PROTESTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES, BUT NO POSITIVE RESPONSE WAS GIVEN BY THE ISRAELI SIDE. TODAY THE ISRAELIS ONCE AGAIN DECLINED TO LET PASS HUNDREDS OF TONS OF SUPPLIES TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE CANAL.

"I AM SURE THAT YOU AGREE WITH ME THAT IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES THERE WILL BE ONLY A FAINT CHANCE FOR ANY FURTHER PROGRESS EITHER ON THE SPOT OR IN GENEVA BOTH IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND LATER IN THE CONFERENCE.

"IF SUCH REPEATED BEHAVIOR BY THE ISRAELIS IS TO BE INTERPRETED AS A PROVOCATION TO OUR FORCES EITHER TO RETALIATE OR TO SEE TO IT THAT THE SUPPLIES NEEDED REACH THE EAST SIDE OF THE CANAL BY FORCE, THEN, I AM SURE, THAT YOU WILL REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO USE RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF SUCH PROVOCATION.

"THIS BEHAVIOR MAY WIDE CERTAIN TACTICS BY THE ISRAELIS IN ORDER THAT THEY, AND NOT THE SYRIANS AS THEY HAVE ALLEGED, CAN RESUME MILITARY OPERATIONS.

"FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I HAVE KEPT OUR PERMANENT DELEGATE TO THE U.N. IN THE PICTURE IN CASE THE ISRAELIS PERSIST IN THEIR BEHAVIOR, SINCE A SITUATION MAY ARISE IN WHICH WE WOULD BE FORCED TO CONSIDER THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL SO THAT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL REGARDING THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES ARE DULY AND FORTHWITH IMPLEMENTED.

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-3- CAIRO 0034, JAN 03, NODIS/CHEROKEE

"IN CONCLUSION, IT IS APPARENT THAT IF THESE ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS PERSIST THEY WILL UNDERMINE PRESENT EFFORTS EXERTED EITHER IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OR IN THE CONFERENCE AND DENY THEM ALL CHANCES WHATSOEVER OF SUCCESS.

~~"I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT YOU WILL CONTACT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND GUARANTEE THAT THEY DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER OBSTRUCTION. I HOPE THAT I WILL HEAR FROM YOU IN THE VERY IMMEDIATE FUTURE."~~

"WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR,

ISMAIL FAHMI"

UNQUOTE
SMITH

SECRET