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Approved
By NARA Date 10/27/01

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

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FM USINT CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4886
BT
SECRET CAIRO 0024

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NODIS/C H E R O K E E

EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SADAT'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S LETTER
OF DECEMBER 29

REF: (A) STATE 252353; (B) CAIRO 4249; (C) CAIRO 0023

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S REPLY TO
SECRETARY'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 29:

QUOTE

"DECEMBER 31, 1973

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

"YOUR MESSAGE DATED DECEMBER 29, 1973 CONCERNING
THE SO-CALLED POSSIBLE IMMINENT SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION
WAS RECEIVED BY ME WITH SURPRISE AND DISMAY.

"THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE HAS NO
FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER. I HAVE RELAYED IT TO PRESIDENT
ASSAD WHO CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THESE REPORTS ARE
ERRONEOUS.

"AS FOR MY DISMAY, IT WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THESE
RUMOURS OR SPECULATIONS WERE MOST PROBABLY PLANTED AND
FABRICATED BY SOURCES WHO HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN
DAMAGING THE VARIOUS EFFORTS EXERTED TO REACH A DIS-
ENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON THE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN FRONTS
AS A PRELUDE TO A FINAL PEACEFUL AND JUST SETTLEMENT.

"IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
IS, IN ITS PRESENT PREDICAMENT, PLANNING TO INITIATE
MILITARY OPERATIONS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT OR AGAINST
EGYPTIAN FORCES AND TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR THAT ON THE
SYRIAN SIDE.

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECRET

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Authority: 8056L baw
NARA Date: 10/27/11



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-2- CAIRO 0024, JAN 02, NODIS/CHEROKEE

"ON THE OTHER HAND, SOLID INFORMATION HAS REACHED ME THAT ZEID EL RIFAI, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JORDAN, IN A PLANNED CAMPAIGN TO DISTORT FACTS WHILE HE WAS LATELY VISITING SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, WAS VOLUNTARILY SPREADING RUMOURS OF SERIOUS TENSION AND POSSIBLE PENDING MILITARY ACTION FROM THE PART OF THE SYRIANS.

"AS I TOLD YOU, THE SO-CALLED RUMOURS ABOUT A POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION INITIATED BY THE SYRIANS ARE FALSE.

"NOT ONLY THAT, BUT, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, PRESIDENT ASSAD DISPATCHED TO CAIRO, UPON MY REQUEST, TWO OFFICERS TO DISCUSS WITH US PLANS FOR A DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES. THIS WAS DONE AS A CONTINUATION TO THE PREPARATORY GROUND WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI LAID OUT IN HIS TALKS WITH YOU BEFORE LEAVING GENEVA. IN A FEW DAYS, WHEN THE TALKS ARE COMPLETED AND THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS ARE OVER, FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WILL GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU TO AGREE ON THE PROCEDURE RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF SYRIA IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES.

"IN THIS CONNECTION I TAKE NOTE WITH APPRECIATION OF YOUR REAFFIRMATION IN YOUR AFORE-MENTIONED MESSAGE OF YOUR COMMITMENT TO WORK OUT A SERIOUS DISENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AS WELL. THIS I HAVE ALREADY COMMUNICATED TO PRESIDENT ASSAD.

"IN CONCLUDING, I AM SURE THAT YOUR ALERTNESS AND CONCERN ON ANY SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE DIRECTED AND MAINLY CONCENTRATED ON THE ISRAELI INTENTIONS. MILITARY OR OTHER, SO THAT THE PLEDGES OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND YOUR COMMITMENTS COULD BE HONOURED TO ENABLE US TO BUILD OUR RELATIONS ON CONFIDENCE BASED ON TANGIBLE DEEDS.

"SINCERELY

"MOKHAMED ANWAR EL SADAT"

UNQUOTE

SMITH

*That is
a false
rumor being
spread by
Syria!*