SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09476 01 OF 03 251131Z
ACTION NEA-11
INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 AF-00 CIAE-00
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 DS-01
P-02 /034 W
-----------------------------------------------126336 260644Z /21

R 251120Z APR 89
PM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9175
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA WASHDC
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 03 CAIRO 09476

LONDON FOR MILLIKEN, PARIS FOR WINN, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:QADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ASEC, EG, SA, TR, PK, AF, AG, UR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS WITH A MEMBER OF "THE ISLAMIC GROUP", AKA "AL-JIHAD"

REF: A. CAIRO 5506 (AND PREVIOUS) B. CAIRO 8608
C. CAIRO 0152 D. CAIRO 8928

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
SECRET
SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09476 01 OF 03 251131Z

2. INTRODUCTION ON SOURCING: IN SEVERAL INITIAL CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, [PROCEDURE FILED B1, B6]
WHO CLAIMS HE IS A FOLLOWER OF RADICAL SHI'ITA OMAR 'ABDURRAHMAN, COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON VARIOUS ISSUES CONCERNING HIS GROUP. HE SAID HIS GROUP IS PROPERLY CALLED "AL-GAMA' A AL-ISLAMIYA" (THE ISLAMIC GROUP). HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED THIS GROUP IS IDENTICAL TO THAT KNOWN AS "AL-JIHAD," A NAME DISAVOWS AS APPENDED TO THE GROUP BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES COMMENTS.

END INTRODUCTION.

3. LEADERSHIP AND IDENTITY: Asserted that the Islamic group numbers some 150,000 - 200,000, in addition to the "small number -- including 1500 arrested since April 1 -- in prison." (Comment: Dismissed any distinction between "sympathizers" and more deeply committed activists among the claimed membership, which we suspect in any case he exaggerated. However, the interior minister has publicly confirmed the claim of 1500 arrests since April 7 -- see ref'd on this question.)

END COMMENT.) The group is well organized, and its members communicate directly through the organization from one secret

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09476 01 OF 02 251131Z

END OF EGYPT TO THE OTHER. GROUPS SUCH AS JIHAD, AL-NAGUN MIN AL-NAR, TAKFIR WAL HIJRA, ETC., EITHER NO LONGER EXIST OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS OR HAVE FEW FOLLOWERS (REF A). THE ISLAMIC GROUP AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ARE THE ONLY SUCH ISLAMIC GROUPS ACTIVE THROUGHOUT EGYPT TODAY. THE GROUP DIFFERS WITH THE MB BOTH IN MEANS AND "SOME OBJECTIVES." SMALLER GROUPS EXIST ON LOCAL LEVEL, BUT LACK THE KIND OF CORRECT RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE ISLAMIC GROUP'S "MUFTI" (ISLAMIC LEGAL INTERPRETER) OR "AMIR 'AAM" (GENERAL COMMANDER OR PRINCE), DR. 'OMAR 'ABDURRAHMAN.

4. ABDURRAHMAN WAS JAILED IN FAYOU M ON APRIL 7. "OPERATIONAL LEADER" IS

UNCLASSIFIED
WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES SINCE LAST DECEMBER, BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON SHORTLY. [ ] HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GROUP'S 11-MAN "CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY" WHEN HE WAS IMPRISONED IN SEPTEMBER, 1981, UNTIL OCTOBER, 1988. [ ] RELATED HIS TACTICS IN LEADING STREET PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER, THE GROUP IS NEITHER "SECRET" NOR "VIOLENT", HE CLAIMED. CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT PORTRAYS OF THE GROUP, THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO FOREIGN TOURISM TO EGYPT; TO THE SERVING OF ALCOHOL IN DESIGNATED PLACES TO NON-MUSLIMS; OR TO THE FULL FREEDOM OF RELIGION FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, UNDER ISLAMIC LAW. THE GROUP HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE REPORTED ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

5. RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT: THE GROUP DOES NOT SECRET

NNNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09476 02 OF 03 251132Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO L0G-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 AF-00 CIAE-00
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 DS-01
P-02 /034 W

------------------126344 260614Z /21

R 251120Z APR 89
PM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9176
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
RECOGNIZE THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT, BUT SOMETIMES COOPERATES WITH IT, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF 'ABDURRAHMAN, WHO MET WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTER BEFORE THE APRIL 1987 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND AGREED NOT TO DISTURB THE PEACE. HOWEVER, THE GROUP DOES NOT/NOT SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02

CAIRO 09476 02 OF 03 2511332

COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN STAGING THE MASS PRAYER RALLIES ON THE HOLIDAYS; OTHER, LOCAL ISLAMIC GROUPS ARE INVOLVED.

THE GOVERNMENT, NOT 'ABDURRAHMAN, PROVOked THE RIOT IN KAYOUUM APRIL 7 (REF B), AND THE GROUP WILL MOUNT DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROTEST 'ABDURRAHMAN'S IMPRISONMENT

6. THE GROUP "RESPECTS" ALL THE 'ULEMA, WHETHER THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OR THE INDEPENDENTS; HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT FEAR TO TELL THEM WHEN IT BELIEVES THEY ARE ERRING. THE "DIALOGUE" WITH THE MUFTI OF THE REPUBLIC
AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF RELIGION IS ONLY GAINING THE GROUP MORE SUPPORTERS.


SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09476 02 OF 03 251133Z

GROUP'S OBJECTIVES AND THOUGHT.)

7. FOREIGN TIES: THE GROUP FINDS KING FAHD AND HIS SYSTEM THE BEST ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT TODAY, FAULTING OTHMAIN MAINLY BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF FIRMNESS IN CONFRONTING KHOMEINI AND THE SHI'ITES. THE GROUP REJECTS KHOMEINI'S CHIEFLY FOR ITS VIOLENCE, THOUGH IT SHARES KHOMEINI'S BELIEF IN ISLAM AS THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, LEADER 'ABDURRAHMAN EVIDENTLY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED AN IRANIAN DELEGATION HE MET AT AN ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN PAKISTAN LAST FALL. EGYPTIANS MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC GROUP ARE FIGHTING WITH THE MUJAHIDEEN IN AFGHANISTAN. THE GROUP ALSO HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE ISLAMIC GROUP IN ALGERIA, WHO HAVE MORE FREEDOM THAN THEY HAVE IN EGYPT. THE GROUP DOES NOT OBJECT TO EGYPTIAN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., BUT BELIEVES EGYPTIANS ARE SOMEWHAT LAZY AND SHOULD DEPEND UPON THEMSELVES, NOT OUTSIDERS. THE GROUP HAS NOT ATTACKED AND WILL NOT ATTACK U.S. DIPLOMATS, ACCORDING TO 'ABDURRAHMAN TRAVELLED LAST YEAR TO THE U.S. TO SPEAK AT A CONFERENCE, AND TRAVELS YEARLY TO THE UK AT THE INVITATION OF AN ISLAMIC GROUP THERE. HE UNDERTAKES HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS VIA SAUDI ARABIA.

---------------

ANALYSIS OF MOTIVES

---------------

UNCLASSIFIED
SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09476 03 OF 03 251133Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 AF-00 CIAE-00
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 DS-01
P-02 /034 W

-----------126350 2606442 /21

R 251120Z APR 89
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO OECOTATE WASHDC 9177
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY RIYADH
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA WASHDC
USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL

SECRET SECTION 03 OF 03 CAIRO 09476

LONDON FOR MILLIKEN, PARIS FOR WINN, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

UNCLASSIFIED
PRUDENT, FROM THIS UNDERGROUND GROUP'S PRESUMABLY SUSPICIOUS PERSPECTIVE TOWARD THE U.S., HAD STIMULATED WILLINGNESS TO MEET POLOFF BY REPORTING TO OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS, THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS PAYING ANALYTICAL SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CATRU 09476 03 OF 03 2511332

ATTENTION TO THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT. WE DEDUCE THAT WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS -- MOST RECENTLY AT THE EMBASSY ITSELF -- IS MOTIVATED IN PART BY THE HARD-PRESSED GROUP'S DESIRE TO MAKE ITS CASE TO THE U.S., AS ALLEGES, PERHAPS IN A DESPERATE HOPE OF SECURING U.S. "SUPPORT." HAD CONFided SEPARATELY TO THAT THE GROUP BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT IS TOLERATING THE MB AS A RESULT OF US "SUPPORT" FOR THE MB; SUCH LEBANESE-STYLE THINKING IS NO LESS WIDELY ACCEPTED FOR BEING BIZARRE. THE BOOKLET WHICH PROVIDED CONVEYED MUCH OF THE SAME INFORMATION HE REPORTED ORALLY. IT EXPLAINS THAT THE GROUP IS PUBLISHING ITS "FULL STORY" THEREIN IN ORDER TO "PROVE ITS CASE TO PUBLIC OPINION." AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS STEPPED UP ITS LEVEL OF "OPPRESSION." WHATEVER EXPECTATIONS MAY BE OF GAIN FOR HIS GROUP FROM CONTACT WITH THE U.S., POLOFF WARNED THAT THE U.S. HAS RELATIONS WITH AND SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT, AND THAT WE SUPPORT THE STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF EGYPT, ITS GOVERNMENT, AND PRESIDENT MUBARAK; WE DO NOT SUPPORT INTERNAL GROUPS OF ANY SORT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

9. ... VANITY, AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, PERSONAL MOTIVES PROBABLY ARE ALSO IN PLAY:

SHOWED A CERTAIN MESSIANIC EXCITEMENT IN ACTING AS A SPOKESMAN FOR HIS GROUP AND ITS IMPRISONED LEADERSHIP, WHICH HE CLEARLY REVERES, TOWARD A SUPERPOWER HE EVIDENTLY BELIEVES IS IN NEED OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT HE HAS TO OFFER. MAY BE A BIT IN FRONT OF HIS LEADERSHIP: HE SAID HE HAD NOT SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED
REQUESTED THE PERMISSION OF LEADER TO PASS THE PRINTED MATERIALS TO US, BUT WAS CONFIDENT WOULD APPROVE AND HE WOULD TELL HE HAD DONE SO. DESPITE APPARENT SINCERITY, WE ARE ALSO ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE MOTIVES, ON THE PART OF EITHER THE ISLAMIC GROUP OR THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY SERVICES. OUR COLLEAGUES, WHO ALSO MET LAST DECEMBER, SHARED THIS ASSESSMENT OF HIS MOTIVES, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT FOUND HIM, OR THEN RELEASED LEADER SO FORTHCOMING AT THAT TIME.

WISNER