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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  
FM 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  
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D), B6

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 CAIRO 09476

LONDON FOR MILLIKEN, PARIS FOR WINN, CENTCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ASEC, EG, SA, IR, 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.  
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2. INTRODUCTION ON SOURCING: IN SEVERAL INITIAL  
CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, [REDACTED]

B1, B6

INTELWIRE.com [REDACTED] WHO CLAIMS HE IS A FOLLOWER OF RADICAL SHEIKH 'OMAR 'ABDURRAHMAN, COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON VARIOUS ISSUES CONCERNING HIS GROUP.

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] DISAVOWS AS APPENDED TO THE GROUP BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES

[REDACTED] COMMENTS.

[REDACTED] END INTRODUCTION.

3. LEADERSHIP AND IDENTITY: [REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] CLAIM OF 1500 ARRESTEES SINCE APRIL 7 -- SEE REF D ON THIS QUESTION -- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] END

COMMENT.) THE GROUP IS WELL ORGANIZED, AND ITS MEMBERS COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION FROM ONE

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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 THE 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 FAYOUM ON APRIL 7. "OPERATIONAL LEADER" IS [REDACTED]

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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 PORTRAYALS 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

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AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON  
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 CAIRO 09476

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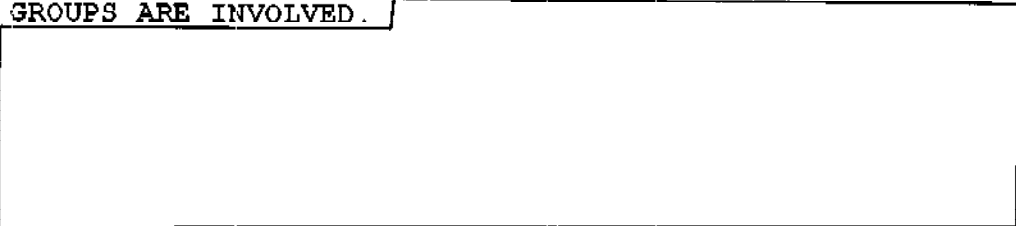
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ASEC, EG, SA, IR, PK, AF, AG, UR  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS WITH A MEMBER OF

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  
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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 FAYOUM 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

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AND OTHER OFFICIAL MEN OF RELIGION IS ONLY GAINING THE  
GROUP MORE SUPPORTERS.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] WE WILL

TRANSMIT SEPARATELY SEVERAL ITEMS PASSED US BY [REDACTED]  
ONE IS A BOOKLET JUST DISTRIBUTED LAST MONTH BUT DATED  
DECEMBER 1988-JANUARY 1989, ENTITLED: "GRAVE REPORTL  
ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC GROUP  
AND THE EGYPTIAN REGIME;" ANOTHER IS A BOOK BY AND  
ABOUT 'ABDURRAHMAN, "A WORD OF TRUTH: THE (1981-82  
TRIAL) DEFENSE OF DR. 'OMAR 'ABDURRAHMAN," WHICH [REDACTED]  
CLAIMED IS THE COMPLETE STORY OF 'ABDURRAHMAN'S LIFE  
AND IDEAS; A THIRD ITEM IS A LOOSELY BOUND SHEAF OF  
PHOTOCOPIED MANUSCRIPTS PURPORTEDLY EXPLAINING THE  
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GROUP'S OBJECTIVES AND THOUGHT.)

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7. FOREIGN TIES: THE GROUP FINDS KING FAHD AND HIS  
SYSTEM THE BEST ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT TODAY, FAULTING QIM  
MAINLY BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF FIRMNESS IN CONFRONTING  
KHOMEINI AND THE SHI'ITES. THE GROUP REJECTS  
KHOMEINISM 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. EGYPTIAN 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  
[REDACTED] '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.

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ANALYSIS OF MOTIVES  
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8. DENSIPATE TO STRAIGHT EFFORT . . . : THE QUESTION OF  
[REDACTED] MOTIVES LEAPS INSTANTLY FROM THE FACT THAT HE  
HAS REVEALED MUCH MORE THAN WE WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS WITH A MEMBER OF

PRUDENT, FROM THIS UNDERGROUND GROUP'S PRESUMABLY  
SUSPICIOUS PERSPECTIVE TOWARD THE U.S. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HAD STIMULATED [REDACTED] WILLINGNESS  
TO MEET POLOFF BY REPORTING TO [REDACTED] OVER A PERIOD OF  
MONTHS, THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS PAYING ANALYTICAL  
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ATTENTION TO THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT. WE DEDUCE THAT  
[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] ALLEGES, PERHAPS IN A  
DESPERATE HOPE OF SECURING U.S. "SUPPORT." [REDACTED] HAD  
CONFIDED SEPARATELY TO [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] PROVIDED CONVEYED MUCH OF THE  
SAME INFORMATION HE REPORTED ORALLY. IT EXPLAINS THAT  
THE GROUP IS PUBLISHING ITS "FULL STORY" THEREIN IN  
ORDER TO "PRESENT ITS CASE TO PUBLIC OPINION," AS THE  
GOVERNMENT HAS STEPPED UP ITS LEVEL OF "OPPRESSION."  
WHATEVER [REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] MAY BE A BIT  
IN FRONT OF HIS LEADERSHIP: HE SAID HE HAD NOT

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REQUESTED THE PERMISSION OF LEADER [REDACTED] TO PASS THE PRINTED MATERIALS TO US, BUT WAS CONFIDENT [REDACTED] WOULD APPROVE AND HE WOULD TELL [REDACTED] HE HAD DONE SO. DESPITE [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] COLLEAGUES, WHO ALSO MET [REDACTED] LAST DECEMBER, SHARE THIS ASSESSMENT OF HIS MOTIVES, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT FOUND HIM, OR THEN RELEASED LEADER [REDACTED] SO FORTHCOMING AT THAT TIME.

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