

SECRET

**MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK OF EGYPT**

OVERVIEW

Although unable to refuse your request that he cochair the Summit of the Peacemakers with you, Mubarak is ambivalent about the Summit and its possible outcome. Despite personal assurances by the Vice President and you of our commitment to strong bilateral ties, Mubarak continues to display uncertainty over how best to deal with a rapidly changing Middle East. At the head of an aging and increasingly reactive regime, he remains concerned that the spotlight of U.S. and Western attention is shifting away from Cairo.

The Summit highlights his perceived dilemma -- Egypt is host and cochair, affirming the central role it continues to play in the region and the peace process. But the presence of senior representatives from virtually the entire Arab League is a vivid demonstration that Egypt no longer is the sole Arab voice for peace or interlocutor for Israel and the West.

In response, Mubarak has increasingly sought to position Egypt as a bulwark of Arab solidarity and unity, a strategy that has tended to put U.S. and Egyptian positions at cross purposes. Since last week's bombings, he has thus assumed the mantle of protecting the Palestinians and Arafat, resisting any suggestion that the Summit may criticize Arafat's previous handling of Hamas and urging that it focus instead on saving the peace process.

Summit of the Peacemakers

Your primary objective will be to reach closure with Mubarak on our concept of how to run the meeting and on the text of the Chairmen's Statement, which you will read at the end of the session.

You should open your meeting by **expressing your thanks for Mubarak's quick agreement to join you in chairing the Summit**, noting this further demonstration of the central position Egypt continues to occupy as a vital force for security and stability in the region and the world.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E. O. 13526

SECRET

Reason: 1.5(d)
Declassify On: 03/10/06

2016-0138-M [1.02]

KBH 10/02/2024

You should review with Mubarak the text of our proposed Chairmen's Statement (it will have been worked overnight; we will update you before the meeting), noting that the document reflects your belief that the Summit should express its conclusions in an unambiguous and clearly understandable manner, rather than in the usual formulaics of a communiqué. Emphasize that the Statement, which you would plan to read, is explicit in its endorsement of the peace process but equally explicit in its condemnation of the terror that now threatens prospects for a settlement. Mubarak must understand that we cannot accept an outcome that does not include this element.

Mubarak will open and you will close both the initial open and subsequent closed sessions of the Summit. You should propose to Mubarak that selected representatives be called upon in closed session to speak to each of the three principal summit themes: condemning violent attempts to kill the peace process; reaffirming commitment to a comprehensive peace; and committing to practical means to combat terror.

While the act of holding the Summit is in itself very significant, its real impact and ability to alter the present negative dynamic in Israel will depend upon credible follow-up steps. Let Mubarak know that you will propose that Secretary Christopher establish a working group to report back in 30 days on steps to follow up on the summit.

Arafat

You should stress to Mubarak the importance of his joining us in pressing Arafat to put a definitive end to Hamas and other terrorist infrastructure in areas governed by the Palestinian Authority. Arafat has in the past been responsive to Mubarak's advice.

Arab League Meeting

The Arab League will hold its biannual ministerial meeting in Cairo the day after the Summit. The League Secretary General has circulated a letter to Arab Ambassadors in advance of that session, which suggests an equivalency between Israeli actions in the territories and the terrorist bombings. Tell Mubarak that we hope the League meeting will reflect fully the results of the Summit, including an unconditional condemnation of the terror committed against Israelis and the threat posed by such acts to the peace process.

Other Bilateral Issues

Middle East Development Bank

You recently wrote Mubarak to encourage resolution of remaining differences on language establishing Middle East Development Bank. Mubarak's reply was helpful, but **Egypt is still avoiding explicit language on ending the boycott.** You should tell Mubarak that we must move to closure on this issue.

Libya (If raised)

Mubarak has been reluctant to jeopardize his ties with Qadhafi because of concern over possible retaliation against the half million-plus Egyptian workers in Libya. He has assured us that Egypt will adhere to the UNSC sanctions, [REDACTED] 3.3(b)(1), 6.2(d)

[REDACTED] Although Mubarak has told you that he believes Qadhafi will never allow the two Pan Am 103 suspects to go to trial, he has publicly urged a compromise solution involving a third-country trial venue. **Affirm our determination to resolve the Pan Am 103 issue through full Libyan compliance with the UNSC resolutions.**

Sudan (If raised)

You should express appreciation for Mubarak's help in facilitating our evacuation from Khartoum and assure him of our continued support for the approach Egypt, Ethiopia and others are taking regarding Sudan. We will support any initiative Egypt or the OAU undertakes in the Security Council in this regard.

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