

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 10:45 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: What's Next for the MB?

Fyi.

[REDACTED]

Will call tomorrow.

**From:** Martin Indyk [REDACTED]  
**To:** 'Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro' [REDACTED] Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Sent:** Sat Feb 12 20:17:16 2011  
**Subject:** Fw: What's Next for the MB?

Below is from Shadi Hamid, the research director at the Brookings Doha Center. He's in Cairo now, talking to the MB...

**From:** shadi.hamid [REDACTED]  
**To:** Martin Indyk  
**Sent:** Sat Feb 12 20:11:27 2011  
**Subject:** Re: What's Next for the MB?

Hi Martin,

It was remarkable and a bit surreal. Was in Tahrir Square after the announcement. Everyone was chanting "you're egyptain, raise your head up high" - that pretty much captures it.

As for MB, I've been meeting with a number of them the last couple days. I don't think they really see this as their moment, even though it probably could be (if they were ready and able to take advantage of it). Their message now appears to be "under no circumstances do we want to govern." Seems that what they want more than anything else is to be left alone and operate and grow without government harassment or interference. In that respect, the group is better understood as a religious movement rather than a political party (I actually wrote an article on why Islamists deliberately lose elections for Journal of Democracy, which can be found [here](#)). The two opeds demonstrate the MB's sensitivity to international opinion and their paranoia about another Algeria/Palestine. They have a phrase for this - the 'American veto.'

Worth also noting that MB has been in opposition for 8 decades, and now they're being asked to potentially govern. MB is nervous about that, just as they are regarding any kind of rapid change. MB is a massive bureaucracy - a slow, bumbling giant of sorts - and now they may need to take more decisive action. That's not something they've generally been good at.

Hope this is helpful.

best,  
shadi

On Sat, Feb 12, 2011 at 8:46 AM, Martin Indyk [REDACTED] wrote:

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Hi Shadi,

I trust you're safe. How I envy your experience! I never imagined it would happen in my lifetime. And now the ME will never be the same again.

I have to write an op-ed for the FT today about implications for US policy. I'd be interested in your take on how the MB will play the game. They launched an impressive charm offensive with simultaneous op-eds in the NYT and the Washpost this week (the political equivalent of AQ's simultaneous attacks). And Obama reciprocated in his remarks yesterday "Above all, this transition must bring all of Egypt's voices to the table...".

On the other hand I heard that Sheikh Qaradawi returned to Egypt yesterday. Any idea how they plan to play the game now that their moment has arrived?

Martin

[redacted]  
special assistant: Nicki Alam

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Shadi Hamid  
Director of Research  
Brookings Doha Center  
Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings

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