

RELEASE IN PART B1, 1.4(B),1.4(D)

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To: H; Burns, William J; Feltman, Jeffrey D
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: SecDef-Tantawi readout

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Here is rough transcript from the SecDef-Tantawi conversation:

Tantawi: I'm glad to hear from you.-

SecDef: Thanks for taking my call; know it's a busy time; want to talk about the situation. I'm calling in the context of the 30 year friendship between our militaries.-

Tantawi: Yes, I understand; thanks for everything you do for us.-

SecDef: I'm concerned about the recent events; want to echo President Obama's call for all sides, protestors and government alike, to exercise restraint and refrain from violence.-

Tantawi: We are working on it, trying very hard to avoid anything else [other than restraint]-

SecDef: Excellent. My view is that the Egyptian Armed Forces, especially the army, have a close bond with the Egyptian people. Important that nothing happen to break that bond or discredit the army in the eyes of the people.-

Tantawi: Yes, it is a very tight bond. You saw it on TV today. We will do our best to handle things peacefully and calmly.-

SecDef: Good; how the army conducts itself will affect the future of our relationship. Can you give me an indication of the situation as you see it today.-

Tantawi: We [the military] deployed yesterday and we're doing our best to cover everything. I expect tomorrow to be better than today. People have confidence in the army.-

SecDef: I agree. What guidance have you given to the troops?-

Tantawi: I told them don't use force. Work with the people as your friends and your family. We won't use violence against our people.-

1.4(D)
B1

SecDef: That's good news. I have a specific concern about the safety of our embassy and two requests.

[Redacted]

Tantawi: Dr. Gates, I'm aware of the embassy situation and Be assured we will take care of everything.

[Redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

SecDef: OK, let's leave it there for now. We'll wait to hear from the ambassador [Amb Scobey] based on your action.-

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

Tantawi: [redacted]
[redacted]

SecDef: All right. [redacted]

[redacted] I welcome President Mubarak's announcements of changes this afternoon and moves to implement reforms. We both know how important it is to take action to address the underlying causes of the protests.-

1.4(D)
B1

Tantawi: Yes, we're going to go forward in the correct channels, inshallah.-

SecDef: Good to talk to you; keeping our fingers crossed; hope you can move forward on reforms.-

Tantawi: I'm happy you called today and look forward to seeing you in Cairo.