

RELEASE IN PART
B5,B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2011 12:25 PM
To: H
Subject: FW:

FYI

From: Scobey, Margaret
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 10:18 AM
To: Scobey, Margaret; Walles, Jacob; Wittes, Tamara C; Schlicher, Ronald L; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Aguirre, Sergio L.'
Cc: Blome, Donald A; 'Mustafa, Herro K.'
Subject:

[Redacted]

"we are being lectured by a country that's only 200 yrs old. If a guest tells you to leave; you kick them out."

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Scobey, Margaret
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:49 PM
To: Walles, Jacob; Wittes, Tamara C; Schlicher, Ronald L; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Sullivan, Jacob J; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Aguirre, Sergio L.
Cc: Blome, Donald A
Subject: FW: Egyptian PM: "Fatal error" behind 02 Feb violence in Tahrir Sq

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Dominic.Asquith [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Scobey, Margaret
Subject: FW: Egyptian PM: "Fatal error" behind 02 Feb violence in Tahrir Sq

For what it is worth

B5

B6

From: BBC Monitoring [mailto:topic@mon.bbc.co.uk]
Sent: 03 February 2011 12:29
To: Dominic Asquith * (Restricted)
Subject: Egyptian PM: "Fatal error" behind 02 Feb violence in Tahrir Sq

Egyptian PM: "Fatal error" behind 02 Feb violence in Tahrir Sq

In a telephone interview with the Egyptian state-owned Channel One TV on 3 February at 0903 gmt, the newly appointed Prime Minister Ahmad Shafik described the violent events of 02 February and the violence that took place in Tahrir square as "fatal" error. He promised to "hold an investigation" into the recent collapse in security and to include the Tahrir square protesters in his talks with the opposition.

The PM's view on what took place in Tahrir Sq

The prime minister began by explaining his view of what happened on Wednesday.

Shafik said: "Yesterday afternoon some groups rushed (into the square), they were not expected to behave in such a manner and they are not identifiable until now. They entered the area of Tahrir Square and there were frictions between the two sides. This friction developed and escalated the matters further. There were losses and casualties. This is a situation, in reality all Egyptians are losers and so is Egypt. This is a waste of resources, and extremism. This is a very dangerous sight, for anyone who loves this state or is loyal to Egypt."

"I repeat and confirm that this issue will not pass unnoticed" the prime minister promised. He asked: "Who entered here? Who planned for this? And if no one planned for this, what directed them to this area? This group that came near the end with some camels, a comical scene but it escalated rapidly."

Shafik added: "Of course, with the youth and their pouring enthusiasm, it went into the night. The casualties rose. The government was present here represented by the minister of health. He was present inside, for a period of two or three hours, with his ambulances and serving the two sides. He was serving here and there and the injuries were here and there. They were treated in the field or by transferring to hospital."

A fatal error

"First and foremost there was a fatal error that happened last night. It was unforeseen, that it would turn up like this" the Egyptian prime minister said. He then promised that his cabinet will investigate the recent events.

He said he was ordered "presidential delegation" to investigate the "causes of the security collapse that happened in the past phase".

"This whole issue, including what happened yesterday, will be under investigation by the specified authorities. So that the honourable crowds, know where the mistake was, and who was behind it? Was it intentional or one error resulting from negligence and ineptitude? All this must be clarified," added Sahfik.

Talks with the opposition and anti-Mubarak protesters

Shafik apologized "for everything that happened yesterday. Honestly this is illogical and irrational." He went on to say that he will "begin dialogue today." He said: "We will sit as is planned with the honourable group and its varied opinions, that sees that it has an opposing view or do not agree 100 percent with the view expressed in the President's decisions. Hopefully we will find some common grounds."

He said this "group was selected by all opposing entities" including the protesters in Tahrir square.

Source: Channel 1 TV, Cairo, in Arabic 0903 gmt 3 Feb 11

BBC Mon alert ME1 MEPol mh

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