

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 4, 2011 7:04 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Cairo Update 1400 hrs February 4

Fyi

**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Cutrona, Aimee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
 [REDACTED] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]; Adams, David S; Epping, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Margaret.Keshishian [REDACTED]'; 'Chang, Benjamin' [REDACTED]; NEA-Egypt; Lenert, Adam J; Mahoney, Haynes R  
**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C; Aguilo, Patricia M; Whitmire, Morgan G; Perry, Mark D; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); Carl Yoder, Samantha A; ECPODistribution; Cairo Consular Americans  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 04 07:02:43 2011  
**Subject:** Cairo Update 1400 hrs February 4

EAC

Ambassador chaired EAC at noon to discuss security situation and Embassy response. All agencies and sections currently represented on the compound attended. The DCM will chair a virtual EAC at 1330 with representatives in remote locations. The DCM will coordinate ongoing review of emergency personnel and TDY presence at post to ensure our official footprint is appropriate and sustainable.

Political

**Tahrir Square:** Tens of thousands have gathered in the square, where the situation remains calm with no pro-Mubarak protesters in the square as of 1330 hrs, but reports of pro-Mubarak protesters marching towards the square with makeshift weapons (chains, etc). For the first time we saw all protesters praying in unison for noon prayers. We noted no women were visible. There are reports of increased MB participation at Tahrir today, and police and the military continue to prevent protesters from bringing supplies into Tahrir. MinDef Tantawi reportedly visited Tahrir this morning, and Al Jazeera reported Arab League SYG Amr Moussa attended today's protest. Media report the official spokesman for Sheikh al Azhar (an MFA Ambassador seconded to Azhar) has resigned and joined protesters in Tahrir as well, and that Sheikh Hafez Salama, a prominent salafist leader and symbolic leader of the recent Suez riots, is in Tahrir. State TV reported the arrest of three foreigners in Tahrir Square, including an Iranian.

**Noon Prayers:** Sermons in some Cairo mosques reportedly called on people not to go to Tahrir to protest, while an EmbOff reported the sermon in his neighborhood mosque (filled to capacity) was led by an injured Cairo University student who urged people to go to Tahrir, suggesting they travel in groups and enter from the north rather than the south (which may explain why we have seen fewer people passing by the Embassy to enter the square).

**Sinai:** An RPG was fired at state security headquarters in El-Arish (North Sinai) at midday, setting the building ablaze. A business contact in El-Arish says Bedouin are attacking the state security building, while 70-100 "bad" NDP people have gone to the governor's building (NFI). There is no military or police presence. Security is dependent on neighborhood watch groups. Sharm al Sheikh remains quiet.

**Alexandria:** More than 50,000 anti-regime protesters had gather near Qaed Ibrahim Mosque by 1300 hrs, despite calls by Imams for people not to join protests. EmbOff reports reduced army presence this morning (there had been five tanks on her street – now there are none). All diplomatic missions in Alexandria continue to report no state security presence to protect their facilities. There are reports of increased anti-foreigner sentiment at checkpoints with verbal harassment while cars are searched. LES staff have heard increased anti-American statements, including on V talk shows. The Italians report a convoy from Alexandria to the Cairo Airport yesterday arrived without incident.

**Sharkiya:** Violent demonstrations yesterday were dominated by MBs who reportedly destroyed shops and cars. No news yet today from the area.

**National Dialogue:** Opposition contact told us that a series of meetings between the VP and opposition forces are scheduled for Saturday. He said that he had been told that at least one "youth" group would meet with Soliman and that it would include representatives from the National Association for Change, April 6 and other opposition parties. He added that a young member of the MB would reportedly also be in attendance. This led him to believe a meeting between the MB and the VP was likely. He said he expected other parties like the Ghad (Nour's faction), the Wafd and Taggamou would also meet with Soliman on Saturday. Separately, the "group of wise men" unaffiliated with any political party that issued a statement on February 2 calling for Mubarak to "delegate" his duties to the VP and remain the "ceremonial" president of Egypt met with Soliman yesterday. We are reaching out to members of the group to better understand their outcome. An activist contact told us that he did not believe protesters would accept this formula, nor would his organization try to convince protesters to do so.

### Security

**Foreigners Arrested:** Consular has received reports of foreigners on the streets are being rounded up by police and military forces for deportation. RSO has received numerous calls from students, journalists, and concerned people indicating police, military, and local checkpoints were stopping all types of foreigners and turning them over to the police. Local checkpoints have been stopping foreigners claiming they were instigators and turning them over to the military.

**Security Problems on Roads to Embassy:** We are working to reassess road conditions to allow for shuttles to bring personnel from Maadi to the Embassy. Shuttles heading south were able to enter Maadi, however shuttles coming to the Embassy from Maadi were stopped by civilian checkpoints. RSO investigator intervened by phone and ultimately convinced the "watchstanders" to let the vehicle pass. Police stood by and did not intervene. Mobile Patrol Unit was dispatched to make arrangements with the checkpoint but were told "no more diplomatic vehicles will be allowed to pass". RSO office has since altered the route through Giza and then north to avoid this area. At this time, all travel on the corniche is prohibited. Maadi situation remains calm. Limited travel within Maadi (to the AID building, etc.) has been allowed on a case-by-case basis. Airport reports no major problems.

### Consular

The consular section was open for emergency ACS cases today, and served 11 people between the hours of 8-10AM. ConOffs at the Cairo airport assisted approximately 30 AmCits who were evacuating on commercial

flights. A surge in travelers is anticipated tomorrow. The consular section has noted an increase in arrests of AmCits, some re-arrested after being released.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S

**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:16 PM

**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Cutrona, Aimee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Phillip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]; Adams, David S; Epling, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Margaret.Keshishian [REDACTED]'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; NEA-Egypt; Lenert, Adam J; Mahoney, Haynes R

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C; Aguilo, Patricia M; Whitmire, Morgan G; Perry, Mark D; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); Carl Yoder, Samantha A; ECPODistribution

**Subject:** Cairo Update 2020 hrs February 3

#### Political

Contacts say there are 20,000 people in Tahrir Square as of 1900 hrs. There are reports of gunfire, possibly from snipers in surrounding buildings, with at least two dead and others wounded, and there is currently no live video feed from the square. The Ministry of Health announced that 13 people were killed and 1200 injured in clashes overnight in Tahrir Square. Demonstrators continue to call for massive demonstrations tomorrow, calling it the "day of departure." One contact told us the plan is to march on Tahrir Square.

We are receiving multiple reports of human rights activists being detained in the Hisham Mubarak center by military police. There are also reports of food and supplies that are en route to protesters in Tahrir are being seized by the military and "community watch" groups near Tahrir. It is possible the raid on the Hisham Mubarak Center may be directed against those involved in providing support to anti-Mubarak protesters.

The Prosecutor General announced the government has forbidden the following individuals from traveling out of Egypt: former Minister of tourism Zoheir Garana, former Interior Minister Habib Al Adly, former Housing Minister Ahmed al Maghreby, and Gamal Mubarak advisor and senior NDP official Ahmed Ezz. Assets of all four have been frozen. All are viewed as having exploited their positions of power to accumulate wealth, and Adly is reportedly under investigation for the police's handling of protests last week and the removal of police from the streets following last Friday's demonstrations.

VP Soliman spoke to the nation via a televised interview by a famous news personality at 1900 hrs (an unusual format for Egyptian leaders, probably aimed at giving increased credibility to his statements). He made the following key points:

- The government is committed to reform and has responded to all of the protesters demands. Return home and give us time to organize and implement these reforms. Urged youth not to demonstrate tomorrow but to give the government a chance to follow through on its commitments.
- Mubarak will not step down. This would be alien to our ideology. The people appreciate "the father and leader" and "his service to the homeland." The remainder of his term will be needed to organize and implement

reforms. He will not run again and neither will his son. Stated Shafik government will remain in place until end of Mubarak's term.

- Engaged in dialogue with many political parties and expect to talk with others (he named the MB, Taggamu, and Wafd) in the coming days. We are talking to representatives of the youth who started the protests. All agree to the outline proposed by Mubarak. **(NOTE: one contact at the meeting described participants as 20 representatives of small opposition groups known to be affiliated with the government and the meeting had no clear outcome. April 6 has denied negotiating with Soliman.)** Soliman said the dialogue must be concluded in the next 5 to 10 days.
- He said all youth detained during protests will be released unless involved in criminal acts.
- Will investigate yesterday's violence. Unclear who started the clashes. Clearly a foreign agenda played a role which must be investigated. Complained of foreign interference in domestic affairs via statements and satellite TV coverage with "false reports and exaggeration." Said Egypt will listen to advice from foreign friends, but rejected instructions from other states. Suggested prison breaks pre-planned and organized.
- Will take months for police to fully redeploy. Defended role of military, including lack of intervention yesterday, saying they were caught by surprise and are playing role of police in their absence. Also said police had acted with "respect and integrity" on January 28 and acted in self defense when attacked by protesters. Retreated to avoid using live fire, per instructions, but should have later redeployed.
- Described enormity of economic losses, saying one million tourists have fled the country since January 25 at a cost of USD 1 billion.

PM Ahmed Shafik delivered televised remarks early in the day, saying dialogue would provide an exit from the crisis and promising to investigate and hold accountable those behind yesterday's clashes at Tahrir as well as those responsible for the removal of police from the streets after clashes with protesters last Friday.

40,000 people participated in pro-democracy demonstrations today in Alexandria. Clashes with pro-Mubarak demonstrators were reported in the Qaed Ibrahim area. Protests are also occurring in Mansura and Sharkiya. Minya is quiet today as is Sinai.

Press report a group of prominent businessmen and intellectual issued a statement suggesting they would be willing to negotiate with the government on behalf of the protesters. They repeated many of the demands made on January 25, but recommended Mubarak delegate his powers to the Vice President and remain in a "ceremonial role" until the end of his term.

### Security

Chancery took incoming fire at approximately 1651 with three rounds passing over the roof and at least one round impacting the roof wall of Cairo 1. An Embassy vehicle encountered two checkpoints en route to Maadi, one civilian and one by uniformed police. Police checked documents and allowed the vehicle to pass. The British Embassy is down to core staff of around 17 people.

A private AmCit was detained this afternoon by pro-Mubarak protesters who handed the person over to the military. The military later released him and he returned to Maadi. Another AmCit was detained at a checkpoint between Sinai and Cairo because he had an Israeli visa. RSO staff have engaged and expect him to be released.

### Consular

ACS has received numerous reports of Amcits detained in the area of Tahrir. According to a contact in Military Intelligence, State Security wants to keep all journalist and foreigners out of the square. ACS reached out to prison authorities to check the status of Amcit detainees. There are two AmCit prisoners who are still in detention at two different prisons. In a third prison, we have been informed that approximately half of the inmates escaped. We do not know whether the 2 Amcits at the prison have escaped. 43 emergency passports were issued today.

In Cairo, Approximately 231 passengers are departing to Frankfurt and another 70 should depart for Larnaca at 20:00. ConOffs are able to accommodate passengers on flights as they arrive at the airport. It is likely that there will be no USG charter flights tomorrow, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Charter flights will resume February 5<sup>th</sup>. Seats are available on commercial flights

departing Cairo. In Alexandria ConOffs have assisted in the evacuation of 303 people (251 American citizens – not including those who departed on commercial flights without assistance). AmCits are encouraged to use commercial flights from Burg El Arab Airport. The conditions of the airport are secure, there are sufficient commercial flights offered, and the road to the airport has been safe. The Luxor/Aswan airport is fully functioning. The warden reports business as usual, with just one small peaceful protest today.

#### Management

We are transitioning from evacuation mode to support for remaining staff. Each evening at 2030 we are holding interagency management meetings and working on normalizing operations, dealing with food and water supplies, etc. The last scheduled charter flights are going out today, so management will no longer be sending employees to the airport. GOE rules are still in force for importing goods through the airport, so it has been a challenge for us to clear goods. Visa rules still apply, so any TDYers with diplomatic or official passports must have visas before arrival.

#### Public Affairs

All foreign journalists are being told by the military to leave Tahrir Square. There are numerous reports of journalists, including AmCits, being detained throughout the city, including on the road to the airport.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S

**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:10 PM

**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Cutrona, Aimee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [redacted] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted] Adams, David S; Epping, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Chang, Benjamin'; NEA-Egypt

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C; Aguilo, Patricia M; Whitmire, Morgan G; Perry, Mark D; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); Carl Yoder, Samantha A; ECPODistribution

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1400 February 3

B6

#### EAC

Ambassador chaired a session of the full EAC at noon on Thursday. All Country Team members were able to reach the Embassy for the meeting except the chief of NAMRU-3 whose vehicle was impeded by a private roadblock. The EAC reviewed and endorsed current security procedures and operating profile. Section and Agency heads will institute procedures for accountability and tracking whereabouts of personnel.

#### Security

There have been four separate incidents of US diplomatic vehicles being stopped south of the Embassy (on Qasr al Ayni Street and the Corniche) by groups armed with bats and knives and not allowed to pass, all between 10:15 and 11:35 AM today. In some cases there were men in police uniforms assisting the crowd. In all four cases the vehicles were able to drive through or back out of the crowd and all passengers have proceeded to safe locations. In three instances the crowd attacked the vehicle with bats and machetes and tried to pry open the doors. In one instance an Embassy driver refused RSO instructions to drive through the crowd, resulting in the crowd climbing onto the roof of the vehicle. EmbOffs in the vehicle pressed the gas and were able to escape. RSO advised EAC of the incidents and travel in that area is now prohibited. In addition, RSO and Ambassador reminded section heads to maintain 100% personnel accountability.

Political

Clashes between pro- and anti-Mubarak protesters continued through the night in Tahrir Square and throughout the city, resulting in at least five deaths and more than 800 injured. The situation in Tahrir Square was calm this morning, but rock throwing has re-commenced between the two groups, despite the military having taken up positions between them. There are reports of pro-Mubarak groups preventing food and water from being brought to Tahrir. Thousands of anti-Mubarak demonstrators remain in the square.

PM Shafik issued an apology for yesterday's violence and promised to hold accountable those responsible. Shafik and VP Soliman called on protesters to go home. Member of Parliament Mohamed Morshdy announced his resignation following Mubarak's February 1 speech and called on other in parliament to follow suit in order to preserve stability. Business contacts have expressed dismay at the lack of GOE intervention at Tahrir.

VP Soliman is reportedly meeting with a group of opposition leaders (including Anwar Sadat) this morning. Participants are not known, but el Baradei is not/not among them. It is unclear whether this group has credibility with the anti-Mubarak protesters. A group of well known independents (businessmen, diplomats, writers, etc) called on Mubarak to delegate authority to Soliman and remain as "ceremonial" leader until the end of his term.

Alexandria experienced at least one serious confrontation between the military and an armed criminal group overnight. LES staff report gunfire in their neighborhoods overnight as well related to looting. The city is quiet this morning, but demonstrations are expected in the afternoon. We are hearing reports of demonstrations in other cities, including Mansura. People in Alexandria say they are stunned by yesterday's events, unsure where this is all heading. Alexandria contacts report shortages of bread and fuel and small numbers of people returning to work. Trains are reportedly operating on an ad hoc schedule.

Consular

ACS is open for emergency services, and is printing emergency passports. The Italian embassy reports an AmCit journalist, Paul Zieira, was arrested by State Security. No further details at this time.

Yesterday's departures: 8 AmCits left Luxor on an evacuation charter. 2 tourists took a commercial flight to Doha. Approximately 60-80 AmCits were making arrangements to leave with their respective tour groups. We have not confirmed these departures. 20 AmCit passengers departed Aswan for Amman. Also, there was word of 54 amcits in Hurgada, and 31 in Sohag who were making arrangements to depart.

Scheduled charter flights for today (low demand may cause some to be canceled, and we estimate 25 AmCits waiting for flights):

B767, SwiftAir, 235 pax, flight N250MY, departing CAI 10:00, arriving FRA 13:15

A320, Lotus, 177 pax, departing CAI 12:00, arriving Athens 14:00

A320, Lotus, 177 pax, departing CAI 17:00, arriving Athens 19:00

A320, Lotus, 177 pax, departing CAI 1830, arriving LCA 20:00

There are no military flights today.

Borg al-Arab and Al-Nozha airports in Alexandria are both operational. ConOffs are encouraging AmCits to use Borg al-Arab, as it is more secure, has more flights, and is open 24 hours. Roads to the airport are clear at this time. 9 AmCits were directed to commercial flights at Borg al-Arab today. Airports remain operational in Luxor and Aswan, and commercial flights are operating. AmCits were evacuated to Cairo yesterday. Updated numbers will be provided by Khartoum TDY support. The Sharm al Sheikh airport appears to be operating with flights arriving/departing regularly.

Public Affairs

Fox News reports two journalists in the hospital. They are told they may be handed to the military to confirm their identity. The New York Times still has 2 journalists apparently detained in unknown location (last described as a

Sharabiya Military Base). NPR reporters and other international journalists report they were attacked by crowds in Shobra but are ok and now being protected by the Military.

### Econ

Exporters in Cairo tell us that many factories have been closed for over a week and are struggling to resume operations. They fear that if the crisis doesn't blow over soon, they risk losing customers. Food and fuel availability remains mixed around neighborhoods of Cairo. Deliveries of fuel to gas stations remain impacted by the lack of security for trucks, which is also affecting port operations. The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank announced this morning that Egypt would resume debt auctions next week.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:01 PM

**To:** Cutrona, Almee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Wallis, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[redacted] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrenel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted] Adams, David S; Epping, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Chang, Benjamin'

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C; Aguilo, Patricia M; Whitmire, Morgan G; Perry, Mark D; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); Carl Yoder, Samantha A; ECPODistribution

**Subject:** Cairo Update 2100 February 2

### Political

**Tahrir Clashes:** Violent clashes erupted between pro and anti-Mubarak protesters this afternoon in Tahrir Square. From the Embassy we could see what we presume to be pro-Mubarak thugs on the roof of a building throwing debris (chairs, rocks, etc) and molotov cocktails into the crowd below. The army did not appear to involve itself aside from some initial efforts to keep the two sides apart in the square. Fires appeared to break out in several areas around the square, but seem to have been extinguished. While Tahrir has quieted down somewhat, clashes continue on side streets. Contacts say some of the pro-government "attackers" were members of the police. Activists in the square report hundreds injured and at least a handful killed, and many called urging us to intervene to stop the violence. One contact reported difficulty evacuating injured people to the hospital.

Local TV aired an interview this evening of a thug claiming to have been paid and trained by the U.S. and Israel. Overall, local TV coverage of events in Tahrir Square has been provocative, calling today the beginning of an "intifada," and warning protesters to evacuate Tahrir Square because of groups with molotov cocktails descending on the area. The Army followed with a statement at 2030 urging protesters evacuate, warning of "armed infiltrators." A prominent human rights activist told us the "sit in" appears to be over, and violence continues outside of Tahrir. He worries protests may now become increasingly violent.

Contacts have reported fewer violent clashes between pro and anti-government protesters in Sharkiya, escalating violence between protesters in Suez (with police in civilian clothes reportedly marching in support of Mubarak), and peaceful competing protests in Sinai. Pro-Mubarak protests were also held in Alexandria and appear to have been peaceful.

Sheikh el Azhar has called for calm and offered to host negotiations, while Grand Mufti, Ali Goma, asked demonstrations to return home after President Mubarak answered their demands for reform.

### Management

The evacuation of official personnel and family members went extremely smoothly today, with 125 family members and 68 USDH departing. So far, we have 9 mission members slated to depart tomorrow.

We are now shifting from transporting people out of the country to planning logistics to support our remaining staff. In the short term, we are focused on water and MREs, with more arriving from Frankfurt on the flights scheduled for tomorrow.

### Consular

The evacuation of official personnel and family members went smoothly today. 125 family members and 68 US direct hires departed. So far, we have 9 mission members slated to depart tomorrow.

A total of 4 evacuation flights departed Cairo with 319 evacuees departed to Frankfurt, Athens, and Washington DC. 59 more departed Alexandria and ten from Luxor. 13 TDYers arrived to work at Cairo airport along with Cairo Consular staff.

600 lbs of water, food, and supplies were received from Nicosia.

CONS estimates about 40 emergency passports have been issued over the past 3 days.

We informed foreign missions of possible space for foreign diplomats on USG evacuation flights. Embassies of Italy and Japan showed interest. No formal requests yet.

### Security

There is concern of a possible riot at Terminal 4 of the Cairo Airport by approximately 1,000 passengers (nationalities unknown) whose flights are being canceled. While this is the terminal we are using for evacuation flights, we do not have personnel there at this time, and the passengers in question are not part of our evacuation efforts (we are using 2/3 of the terminal, they are in the other portion of the building). We do have four TDY consular officers arriving at Terminal 4 momentarily. An A/RSO and armored vehicle are standing by to pick them up

We have seen a slight lowering of the military profile in the Maadi area. Police have assumed some of their previous static positions around the Maadi area. They were also re-established around the embassy, though in smaller numbers, and then inexplicably removed less than a half of an hour later.

### Economic Situation

Imported goods, including foodstuffs and fuel, are unable to leave major ports largely because of lack of security for trucks. The port of Ain Sokhna has been shut down since Friday on the orders of the MOD. The new Minister of Trade and Industry has formed an "Emergency Committee" to address transportation issues. The Ministry of Trade is asking MOD to better secure trucks carrying food and fuel and is requesting permission from the MOD for food shipments to move after curfew hours. Many gas stations around Cairo were closed today. The stations that were open saw long lines, and some stations limited the amount of fuel drivers could purchase. Food supply has, however, reportedly improved today, with better-stocked shelves and fewer incidents of hoarding. Prices have not risen drastically in most areas.

Citizens had better cash flow today as public sector workers were paid as promised by the Ministry of Finance, and more ATM's operated, albeit with long lines to withdraw money and limits on how much could be withdrawn. Retail banks are scheduled to re-open on Sunday (which would make Embassy operations easier), and the stock market may re-open later next week.

The Suez Canal has operated normally; ships are passing without incident.

**Public Affairs**

Bloomberg News' reporter Ola Galal has been released from military detention late this afternoon. But now there are other American/international news organizations reporting detentions of their journalists today:

NY Times' Nicholas Kulish (Amcit) & Souad Mekennet still being held by Military at Sharabaya

CBS News' Alex Ortiz (Amcit)

Fox News' 9 persons' team calling in distress and fearful at Egypt Knights' Hotel

Vanity Fair

Four Square Media

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 5:31 PM

**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[redacted] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted] Adams, David S; Epping, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Chang, Benjamin'

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**Subject:** RESENDING: Cairo Update 1500 February 2

*Resending the last SitRep as we missed some addressees. Aimee*

**Clashes in Tahrir:** There are reports of several small pro-Mubarak protests have moved into the square and are clashing with protesters. Clashes between the two have begun.

Protestors remain in Tahrir square although in much smaller numbers. Activist contacts tell us we should expect a decline in numbers today and tomorrow as they focus on preparations for the march on Friday. Those contacts suggest they hope the situation will be "resolved," meaning the departure of Mubarak, before Friday as they are concerned about the security of protesters and the possibility that moving out of Tahrir will initiate a clash with military forces. Efforts to coalesce the opposition around what should happen if Mubarak departs are proving difficult and we are seeing no concrete proposals.

**Security:**

At 11:45, RSO has received reports of pro-Mubarak protestors, estimated at 5000, gathering in Mohandiseen. On morning route helping evacuees, RSO saw only one gas station open on Cairo's Corniche Road, some banks open with long lines and a number of trucks delivering flour and rice to stores. RSO received call from LGF who reports he received a letter from his Reserve Army infantry Unit that he is being called to Suez.

**Evacuation:**

RSO confirms that mission personnel are at the airport.

**Cairo Airport:**

CONS is expecting about 7 flights to Athens and Frankfurt today. Additional food and supplies are expected to be received from Nicosia. Delta will begin running daily flights from Terminal 1, departing at 12:15pm. At 10:00AM, there were approximately 50 Amcits waiting for evacuation. Airport site officer expects there to be many unused seats today even given departure of Mission dependents and staff. 8 ConOffs are on site and 2 CST TDYers expected today from Frankfurt with satellite equipment, food, and water.

**Alexandria:**

48 Amcits are departing from El Nousa Airport to Rome and an additional flight departing from Borg El Arab Airport.

**Luxor:**

60 Amcits in Luxor airport will be transported on a later flight to Athens. The group is part of a tour group which has another group of 54 Amcits in Hurghada.

**Political:**

Al Jazeera and BBC report statement by Egyptian Army spokesman calling on demonstrators to go home and return to normal life.

**Pro and Anti Mubarak Protests:** Anti-Mubarak protests continue in Tahrir Square despite President Mubarak's promise not to run in the upcoming presidential elections. A staffer in Tahrir spoke to demonstrators leaving the square who estimate that 30% of demonstrators are happy with Mubarak's speech and his plan not to seek reelection. The remaining demonstrators continue to call for Mubarak to leave immediately and call for changing Article 88 of the Constitution to allow for judges to supervise elections.

Pro-Mubarak Protests have been reported across Cairo this morning. In Mohandiseen neighborhood, we received differing reports of several hundred to several thousand pro-Mubarak demonstrators gathering at 11:00 at Mustapha Mahmoud Mosque. Hearing rumors that AmCham leadership is involved in organizing pro-Mubarak rallies, we reached out to them. AmCham members are engaged in pro-Mubarak activities but are not/not using any Chamber resources to take a political position. Members are acting in their individual capacity. At 11:50 pro-Mubarak demonstrators in Talaat Harb Square (two blocks from Tahrir Square) verbally clashed with anti-government protestors. Another small pro-Mubarak protest was reported in front of a police station in Maadi. Similar pro-Mubarak demonstrations were reported on in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ramsees Square in Downtown Cairo as well as in Haram neighborhood near the pyramids. Celebrities, including famous football players and actors, are scheduled to demonstrate on 2/3 at 10:00 in support of President Mubarak's plan for transition.

**Outside Cairo:** According to a contact in Suez, a well-known NDP businessman is distributing weapons to "thugs" at his factory. Consequently, there is a growing fear that NDP thugs will launch attacks, provoking a violent response from the MB and leading to street clashes. There is a sense that Friday will be the "turning point." Either people will go home or much more violence will break out. In Sharm el Sheikh, the security presence is reported to be limited and some tourists are oblivious to situation in Egypt.

**Economic:**

Some foreign manufacturers are shutting down operations and we have. The official news agency reported that the Central Bank decided banks will begin operations again on Sunday.

Food and health services reports seem to vary by location. According to USAID contacts, there is the beginning of a food shortage. Transport of food stuffs and the availability of open shops are the key issues driving their concerns. Although some grocery stores are open, many shops are reportedly deciding to remain closed due to the risk of looting. Those that are open have limited food items and subsidized "baladi" bread has been difficult to acquire. Hoarding is common, exacerbating the shortages. Some public hospitals appear open and operational. Others are not operating at full capacity. Most pharmacies are open.

Fuel shortages driven by security issues and transportation difficulties have been reported in almost all governorates. There is a severe shortage of butane gas (cooking gas) and prices are going up. Lower octane gasoline (cheaper prices) is scarce. However, natural gas supply to homes does not seem to be affected.

**PA:**

International and Egyptian journalists told us that there is increased harassment of journalists by security on the streets since last night. Journalists report a more tense atmosphere on the streets today and crowds of people shouting "hysterically" at reporters. The Semiramis Hotel in Tahrir Square is reportedly not letting reporters set up shop in the hotel.

Aimee Cutrona  
ECPD  
X3892

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:26 PM  
**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Cutrona, Aimee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Wallis, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [redacted] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted] Adams, David S; Epping, Jerome N; Randolph, Lawrence M (Algiers); 'Chang, Benjamin'  
**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C; Aguilo, Patricia M; Whitmire, Morgan G; Perry, Mark D  
**Subject:** Cairo Update 1920 hrs February 1

**EAC**

At 1500 DCM conducted a virtual EAC via conference call with all agency heads not located on the chancery. All staff have been informed that the Department has placed the post on Ordered Departure and preparations are underway for the evacuation of remaining family members and non-emergency personnel.

**Consular**

Emergency ACS services were offered at the embassy yesterday and today. The primary service was issuing emergency passports.

**Evacuation**

**Cairo:**

- **Today (2/1):** So far, 3 flights have departed with between 250-300 passengers. 40 additional passengers will leave tonight before the airport shuts until 10AM tomorrow. ConOffs are currently drawing up the final flight manifest. At the moment there are no other American passengers in the terminal, and it appears that all of today's passengers will have been accommodated. 13 TDY personnel (12 CONS, 1 MGT) arrived at the airport today.
- **Tomorrow (2/2):** Mission personnel are expecting around 350 official AmCits, and between 750-850 private Americans. Flight details are dependent on CA and NEA/EX.

#### **Alexandria:**

- **Today (2/1):** 132 Booz Allen and Schutz American School employees departed. The military blocked the roads to the airport as of 10AM, as the protesters had already started to block the roads.
- **Tomorrow (2/2):** the transportation situation to the airport tomorrow remains unknown. APP is advising private Americans with scheduled flights to leave for the airport as early as possible, in order to avoid traffic delays, or the closure of airport roads.

#### **Luxor:**

- **Yesterday and Today (2/2, 2/3):** commercial flights are departing, the airport seems to be open and running. TDY support from Khartoum is present in Luxor and Aswan.

#### Political

Some estimate the demonstration in Tahrir Square may exceed one million people. There has been an increase in sectarian rumors, including pamphlets purportedly warning of an anti-Christian agenda on the part of the MB. Nevertheless, contacts at Tahrir say the crowd is diverse and not divided along political or sectarian lines. Estimates are the MB comprise 10% of the crowd. There are additional reports of large demonstrations throughout the country including Port Said (70,000), Suez (50,000), Mansura (50,000), Minya (40,000), and Aswan (10,000). UN World Food Program staff reported that Sohag was calm, while Asuit was chaotic and violent with a number of deaths in recent demonstrations.

PM Ahmed Shafik will make a televised address at 2030 hrs.

Opposition groups continue to meet, but remain divided on the best way to proceed. Wafd Party head Sayed El Badawi made a public statement calling for Mubarak to step down.

The military spokesman made a televised statement warning people to abide by the law and announcing a ban on civilians wearing military uniforms. State TV reports a number of shops selling uniforms were burglarized and there are reports of thugs and escaped inmates roving the streets in military uniform.

Minister of Antiquities Dr. Zahi Hawass told post 70 statues in the Egyptian museum were damaged, but could be repaired. Other stolen artifacts had been returned to a storehouse in Sinai, and citizens had prevented the vandalism of pharaonic sites in upper Egypt.

#### Economic Update

The Ministry of Finance announced that salaries would be paid on February 2 and would be available via ATM as banks remain closed. Banking contacts tell us there are serious security challenges to restock empty ATMs. Bank Misr has reportedly refilled 420 ATMs and Banque du Caire has refilled 78, however many are in bank branch lobbies, so are inaccessible until banks reopen. Security issues will preclude refilling ATMs in certain high-risk areas. The central bank will meet with all banks tomorrow to coordinate re-opening banks (unclear when) in a way that avoids panic, ensuring enough cash is on hand. Despite branch closures, "backroom" operations continue unaffected.

Many businesses and factories in Cairo remain closed. The Finance Ministry has announced a LE 5 billion fund for businesses affected by the current situation, including unemployment benefits.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Rosenstock, Matthew S

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:14 PM

**To:** Cutrone, Almee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Waller, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[REDACTED] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wells, Alice G; Farbeann, Joseph R; Speaks, John T; Boland, Patrick T; Crocker, John W; Williams, Eric C

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1510 February 1

### EAC

Ambassador convened a meeting of the core EAC at noon and discussed ongoing evacuation operations and potential for imminent decision to request ordered departure. Section and Agency heads are advising all remaining family members and non-emergency personnel to be prepared to evacuate at short notice. The EAC reviewed the implications for security of the growing mass of demonstrators at Tahrir. The crowd is largely peaceful and military units at access points to the square are not impeding the gathering. The military is performing inspections of those passing through the checkpoints. No vehicles are being allowed past the checkpoints into the square.

### Security

Rumors continue to swirl through various contacts about an Embassy plated vehicle being involved in a hit and run accident on the Corniche. This is, to our knowledge, untrue. It is possible that one of the vehicles stolen from the Motor Pool was involved in a hit and run accident. We have been informed that on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>, when the vehicles were originally stolen from one of the mission's motor pool lots, one of the vans ran over and killed several police officers. Additionally, there have been several credible reports of the vehicles being used in shooting incidents around Cairo. In one other event, it is possible that a caller informing the RSO of having found one of the vehicles was actually attempting to lure personnel out of the mission.

At approximately 1445, the Marine FAST reported that they observed a two man camera crew, located on an upper story of the Semi Ramis Hotel, apparently filming the Embassy Compound. The two men were located on an upper floor balcony on the east side of the hotel. There was also a camera mounted on a tripod and connected to a laptop computer immediately beside the camera. The Marines observed the camera through their binoculars and the camera was pointed directly at the Embassy compound. The RSO is attempting to acquire more information about the film crew.

### Consular

#### **Cairo:**

- **Yesterday:** 9 planes, over 1200 passengers departed Cairo international, including 400 mission members.
- **Today:**

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- First plane is full, loading luggage, 177 pax to Istanbul. All of the people who did not get on last night were given priority.
- There are 6 confirmed flights today (160-170 pax), with the possibility of 2 more. Flights for the rest of the week are not yet known.
- There is space for all mission personnel on the confirmed flights.
- AUC students left, except for one. 9 AFS high school students are priority for second flights. USAID contractors from the conference departed.
- We are authorized space for British, Australian, and Canadian TCNs among others; some Canadians boarded today.
- ACS was open for emergency operations, primarily for passports. People with passports locked in Cons for NIV/IV processing were also able to recover their passports.

#### **Alexandria:**

- **Yesterday:** Middlebury, EFSA, and flagship students all departed yesterday. Rowan drilling employees evacuated yesterday.
- **Today:**
  - 174 Booze Allen with 14 American School teachers departing today; their pax are already at the airport.
  - Military is blocking the roads to the airport, as the protesters had already started to block the roads.

#### **Luxor:**

- Commercial flights are departing, the airport seems to be open and running.
- There are reports of bribery on the part of Egyptian officials: AmCits are reportedly being asked pay a bribe in order to enter the terminal. This has not been confirmed by our contacts on the ground.

#### Political

People are streaming into Tahrir Square in huge numbers from all over Cairo. One activist contact told us he believed that there were one million in Tahrir noting that there was a solid mass of people up to the bridges out of the square. Contacts from Sharkiya to Arish tell us they are trying to come as well, but road closures are preventing many. TV reports protesters being searched by military, and in some instances civilians, to avoid weapons being brought into Tahrir Square. One contact expressed concern that the returning security services would infiltrate the crowd with plainclothed police that sought to make trouble. Army helicopters are making regular passes over the crowds. Some Cairo neighborhoods have organized a system to allow people to participate in the protest downtown while others stay back to protect people's homes. Some contacts believe the crowd will march on the Presidential palace in Heliopolis (approximately a two hour walk), saying the military's statement last night gave them a "green light." Many opposition contacts say they prefer to keep the demonstration in Tahrir Square, but it is unclear what will happen given the absence of clear leaders among the demonstrators. National train service has been canceled since midday yesterday and roads from Suez, Arish, and Sharkiya to Cairo are reportedly blocked to prevent people from joining the demonstration. There is a rumor that planes or helicopters over Tahrir Square have dropped papers calling for people to "preserve security."

State TV is calling on people not to participate in today's demonstrations, saying they should not listen to incitement from pan-Arab TV channels. Former MB Supreme Guide Mehdi Akef in a midday interview on Al Arabiya today said the Muslim Brotherhood goal for today is to "remove the ruler." While this is the position of most opposition groups, including Baradei, he added that the MB would not cooperate with Mubarak or anyone who had cooperated with Mubarak. He said the constitution would "fill the gap" when Mubarak steps down, calling for the head of the constitutional court to play that role (he called Speaker of Parliament Fathi Sorour too controversial). He claimed the MB does not seek any senior leadership positions in the new

government. Another Muslim Brother official appeared on al-Hayat TV last night saying Tuesday would be "the big jihad."

The head of the Wafd party will reportedly deliver a speech shortly, and Democratic Front Party head Osama al Ghazali Harb rejected the call for dialogue with the government, saying dialogue cannot occur until Mubarak leaves.

Outside of Cairo large demonstrations are occurring throughout Egypt including in Aswan, Minya, Suez, Mahala, Mansura, Alexandria, Assiut, and Ismailiya. In Alexandria there are reports of 75,000 protestors at the Qaed Ibrahim Mosque, with thousands more marching towards the mosque. Contacts report no military presence near the mosque or the train station in Alexandria. Reuters reports 100,000 protestors in Mansura, and contacts report 20,000 people in the main square of el-Arish. Sinai contacts tell us they were prevented from coming to Cairo, and that this is the largest demonstration so far in North Sinai. In Arish police have disappeared and local people are protecting their neighborhoods, while looting occurs downtown. The police station was reportedly attacked and weapons were stolen. Roads are closed off to Central Sinai. Construction equipment for a USAID funded desalination plants appears to be undamaged so far.

Arab League SYG Amr Moussa made a statement calling for democratic transition, saying it would be impossible to return to the pre-January 25 situation. He expressed support for dialogue and urged that the transition of power take place in a prestigious way that reflects well on the protesters.

A handful of pro-Mubarak demonstrations have begun in Giza and near the State TV offices downtown, with demonstrators numbering in the hundreds.

Police have returned to streets in many places, but have been prevented from doing so in areas that experienced serious violence. For instance, we hear police re-deployed in Ismailiya and Suez but were pulled back after threats from protestors. In Sharkiya police redeployed without any problems. The MOI has announced on state TV the arrest of 4,054 thugs, looters, and escaped inmates.

#### Economic/Food Security

Price for foods are generally up 20% from last week. Supermarkets and grocery stores appear to be undertaking some self-imposed rationing, so that they can share available supplies until their stocks are replenished.

The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) received special permits to operate their delivery trucks during curfew and the bakeries producing balady bread in Cairo, at least, are operating. Our FAS LES report that in rural areas and smaller towns, it does not appear that flour deliveries are being made. Some of the balady bread flour supply may be "leaking" into the private sector as evidenced by the poor quality of bread coming from private sector bakeries. GASC Chairman Noumani Noumani told us today that GASC has 150 days supply of wheat and that most flour mills are operating normally. The MSS trucks are moving some flour, but cannot handle all the demand and, of course, little or no flour is moving to private sector flour users, which accounts for 1/3 of Egypt's wheat demand. New Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Samiha Fawzy will take the issues concerning food distribution to the Prime Minister (diesel supply, curfew movement permits for delivery trucks). The GOE has setup a 24 hour a day Task Force to deal with food supply logistic issues with military, government and private sector participation

One of the key issues is that people do not have money. For the poor, this is the end of the month and they were expecting to cash their pay check. For those with funds in the bank, ATMs have not been restocked and banks are closed. Banks will remain closed tomorrow. Some ATM's in Zamalek were reportedly restocked with cash.

The ports are operating with customs clearance on a manual basis, but without diesel to run discharge equipment, this will continue to be a bottleneck. Our Plant Quarantine contacts say that they are not yet back at

work to clear shipments. The military has ordered the opening of Exxon/Mobil's fuel depot in Port Suez and is also trying to get open depots in Cairo and Alexandria. At least one government-owned depot is also open. This is a key to making diesel fuel available to the trucks owned by the food processing companies as well as to private sector truckers, who carry the burden of moving food around the country.

The Suez Canal Authority has reportedly told journalists that operations at the canal are unaffected by the ongoing political standoff. Press quote Ahmed al-Manakhi, a member of the Suez Canal Authority's board of directors, as saying, "Traffic has been running normally, with 45 to 50 ships passing through the canal per day."

Al Jazeera reports that Egypt Air has announced it is canceling all flights between 3pm and 8am to abide by the curfew.

Coca-Cola reports (unofficially) that they have all their expats out of the country and have shut down operations (no production or distribution). They're monitoring from Ops center in Turkey. They are making cash and water (if needed) available to their 200+ local employees.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:24 AM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[redacted] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL

**Subject:** Cairo Update 0100 February 1 Allen, Katherine E

Evacuation: All family members wishing to leave have been evacuated.

Security: At 0045 local guard force reported that 3 to 5 Central Security police reported for duty at the Embassy entrance closest to the Ambassador's residence. They arrived in uniform and were armed.

Political:

**Soliman Speaks:** In his first televised speech, and the first effort by the GOE to address protester demands, VP Omar Soliman said Mubarak had assigned him to engage in dialogue with political parties to discuss constitutional and legislative reform. He committed to implement decisions made by the court of cassation regarding parliamentary elections, and said new elections in those areas where claims had been submitted. Soliman said Mubarak also asked for a government statement to be issued in the coming days outlining new policies to implement reforms (mostly economic although he did note anti-corruption efforts) and committed that this would happen within a specific timeframe. One young activist told us that he viewed this first statement as another effort by the regime to delay the inevitable and said anything short of an end to the current regime and the creation of a transitional government with new elections would not be accepted. A senior opposition party leader agreed on both points noting that "Mubarak is playing with time" and that the protestors would accept nothing less than his ouster. He went on to say he understood Soliman would reach out only to "some legal parties" including the Wafd (which he reported as having asked for the meeting)

and Tagammu. He expected this would further damage the credibility of both parties and said other parties and activist groups would refuse to meet, believing it ran counter to the popular mandate.

**Army Promises Not to Fire on Protesters:** The army spokesman issued another statement this evening, moving beyond previous messages requesting citizens defend their property and this time promising to guarantee freedom of expression for all peaceful protestors. Striking a new tone, the military called itself "your armed forces," saying it was on the streets to protect people and would not fire on protestors, while warning people not to engage in looting or "terrorizing citizens." A key human rights contact stressed the "tremendous importance" of the statement that the army will not use violence against demonstrators.

**Protestors remain in the square tonight.** Estimates from our contacts were that tens of thousands were there during the day to day, believing it to be the largest turnout yet. Demonstrations tomorrow will not be a march as reported by the media, but an in-place demo at Tahrir and surrounding. He thinks numbers will "dwarf" even recent days. He believed that Mubarak was counting on being able to wait out the protestors and said the only way to bring an end to Mubarak was to "stick through to the end." Another contact in the square reported that he saw the same "mixed crowd" and did not report a large or growing MB presence. Crowds are still very animated, but one contact told us there is "some, growing frustration among protestors" with stubbornness of government and lack of any genuine concessions.

PA: News organizations (large and small) continue to arrive here in Cairo as well as in Alexandria and around Egypt.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 7:41 PM

**To:** Shea, Peter T; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1930 January 31

There is rising concern in Cairo as food supplies dwindle and money is inaccessible. Our contacts in Cairo, Alexandria, and Tanta report the police have not returned to their posts in most areas and the military is deployed to the main streets only. People feel safe during day but at night rely on armed "neighborhood watch" committees, some of which employ speakers atop mosque minarets to organize defenses. Grocery stores are open, but many are short on stock, with suppliers unable or unwilling to bring in replacement stock. Pharmacies are closed in some Cairo neighborhoods and reportedly running out of basic medicines in a few others. Many gas stations are closed and there are long lines at those that are open and reports of rationing. Bread is in short supply in many areas with long lines at state run bread stores. People are running short of cash with banks closed and many ATMs down. Some report a 30-100% increase in the price of food at smaller markets.

Evacuation Update: Staff report delays in evacuating personnel at the airport. Although we have capacity/number of seats to get everyone out tonight, we are facing problems getting people through

Egyptian customs who have only two people reviewing/stamping passports. We have asked for additional resources.

**Security:** RSO and his deputy are at the airport assisting in evacuation efforts. The three Mobile Security Deployment teams arrived today as did three of the four TDY A/RSO's. The fourth will arrive tomorrow.

**Political:**

**Protest Update:** Contacts who have been in Tahrir Square multiple days confirm that today's crowd is the largest since the start. The military presence remains significant, however members of the crowd appear to be organizing among themselves to provide food and water and have even reportedly organized their own check points going into the square. One contact told us they are checking IDs and for weapons, in part to keep police out. One opposition contact estimated that at 1630 local time that 30,000 had gathered in Tahrir.

We continue to hear from those in the square that participants are "average Egyptians." Contacts tell us of modestly increasing anti-US sentiment in the demonstrations, with many blaming each new move by the GOE on perceived U.S. machinations. April 6 has called for 1 million to demonstrate on Tuesday around the country and several contacts tell us they think many new protestors will heed the call. A general strike is also planned, but impact may be muted since many are not going to work due to shrinking curfews and nighttime neighborhood watch duty.

**New Cabinet a disappointment:** An MFA contact told us he believes Mubarak moves are totally inadequate in the eyes of the protesters. Several opposition contacts complained about members of the new cabinet announced today. One senior judicial contact said that this was Mubarak's last card and "he played it badly." Of the 25 members of the cabinet announced 16 ministers held onto their positions. Many of the Ministers that were removed were prominent businessmen (Minister of Trade Rachid, Minister of Transport Abaza). Many have complained about the GOE's ties to big business. Those that remain appear to be Mubarak's closest allies (Minister of Defense Tantawi, now also a Deputy PM (a new position), most prominent among them). Of note is the continued presence of Ministers dealing with issues of concern to protestors including Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Moufid Shehab, Minister of Justice Mamdouh Marei, Minister of Information Anas Al Feqi, Minister of Social Solidarity, Ali Meselhi and Minister of Manpower Aisha Abdel Hadi.

**Rafah Closed:** A Palestinian diplomat told us the Rafah crossing is closed due to the unstable security situation in Sinai. He believed GOE security forces remained at their posts at the crossing and complained that numerous Gazans were stranded in Egypt where they had sought medical treatment. We have yet to receive confirmation of this report from either the GOI or GOE.

**Role of MB:** We have received mixed reporting on the role of the MB in these protests. One contact said that efforts to "politicize" the crowd in Tahrir are being rejected and that even attempts to raise signs endorsing El Baradei have led to scuffles. Others note the MBs have played an increased role in getting people to Tahrir, speculating they feel freer to participate after playing a role in organizing neighborhood committees. Another contact, and former MB, told us the opposite. The MB continues to play a secondary role, believing their open participation too sensitive. A third contact, an opposition leader, reported that MB are "taking advantage" of the gathering to recruit new members among what he called a politically naive group. He said that he was advocating within his party to do the same.

**Opposition Coalition Fracturing:** Opposition contact we reached out to today have reported that efforts to come together around El Baradei may be falling apart. They report clashes of egos as well as some ideological differences, including concerns expressed by one Wafd contact about his willingness to work with the

MB. While another contact reports that they have already begun to try to reach out to some mid-level military officers in an effort to meet with military leaders, there are no ongoing discussions. One oppositionist reported that some will seek to meet with prominent Egyptian scientist Ahmed Zuwail when he arrives in Cairo tomorrow in order to see if he might be able to broker talks with VP Omar Suleiman or PM Ahmed Shafik.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Shea, Peter T

**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 2:14 PM

**To:** Shea, Peter T; Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[redacted] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F; Galliker, Andrew S; Turner, India R; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1410 January 31

The Ambassador faxed a letter to new Vice President Omar Suleiman detailing the problems we are experiencing due to the Internet shutdown and asking if he could assist in allowing bulk SMS messages to get through, which would help the Embassy reach out to American citizens in Egypt.

The Ambassador continues trying to reach out to new Prime Minister designate Ahmed Shafik.

Police have returned to their normal duties in central Cairo, making an immediate improvement in traffic. One policeman said that the police should be returning everywhere except to Tahrir Square.

**Management:**

Non-official AmCits are being de-planed from the milair flight to Bahrain and being put on mil air to Cyprus. Two flights are filled, half-way through the third.

Six buses of official AmCits left ESSA complex for the airport at 1255. Most will go on the mil air plane bound for Bahrain.

**Consular:**

Four Consular officials are at airport now, as well as a TDYer and Embassy's CBP attaché (who is assisting with consular work). Three more Consular officials en-route to airport.

**Security:**

Increased Egyptian military presence overnight with a more visible number of armor, to include strategically placed M-1 Abrams tanks, some near the Embassy. Army has also installed numerous concrete barriers to funnel traffic and has reinforced sandbagged fighting positions.

B6

As Embassy transported a large number of family members to Cairo airport for authorized departure, RSO working closely with other sections, agencies and airport security officials has established orderly processing of evacuees (EFMs as well as AmCits), greatly enhancing screening and security.

RSO reports efficient screening and security procedures in place by Egyptian authorities at the airport

A U.S. Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Support Team (FAST) arrived safely at post and are in the process of establishing operations within the perimeter of the Chancery compound

Likewise, a team of Diplomatic Security's Mobile Security Deployments (MSD) Special Agents along with additional ARSOs have arrived in country

Curfew starts today at 3:00PM local.

**Political:**

**Mubarak has started announcing ministers. Mahmoud Wagdy was tapped new Interior Minister.** He is former head of prisons, a former head of investigations at MOI, and reportedly has a reputation for fighting corruption. International press note that he was not close with former MOI Al-Adly.

We are expecting a **big announcement around 1430** local time regarding other ministerial appointments.

**Demonstrations continue in Tahrir Square and other locations.** Numbers appear similar to yesterday so far. MB called a demo in Shubra neighborhood that is reportedly now heading toward Tahrir. Other large groups of demonstrators are reportedly converging on downtown from Mohandeseen.

**At least parts of the up-scale neighborhood of Heliopolis have reportedly lost water.** There are rumors that government will soon cut water and power in other areas; a prominent international NGO told us they finally decided to evacuate staff for this reason.

Older, more experienced activists say that Suleiman, "if he steps up," he could win support from the "everyman" who wants to restore security and economic activity. Younger activists, who believe they have the street's support, will have none of it, demanding that all current regime depart.

An HR activist with close ties to the opposition told us today that lack of Internet is no longer impacting gathering crowds, but worry that it will make it difficult to "calm students activists" if negotiations of government transition do not meet street expectations.

Egyptian pro-government newspapers today focused on army and President Mubarak's activities. They emphasize national unity and praise people for uniting to provide for their own security. Independent newspapers focused on demos, as well as "terror" in the neighborhoods, reporting that 40,000 prisoners have escaped nation-wide.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Shea, Peter T  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 9:58 AM  
**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[REDACTED] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED] Shea, Peter T

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F

**Subject:** Cairo Update 0955 January 31

**Management:**

We have confirmed clearances for all landings/take-offs for today's flights. E have requested Airline info for tomorrow's flights.

Pick-ups began this morning at 8:00AM local for embassy family members being evacuated.

MGMT team stayed overnight at Cairo Int'l Airport, Terminal 4. Hundreds of Amcits already there.

**Consular:**

CONS team en-route to airport. Continuous reports that Amcits are heading to airport.

Exploring the possibility of a flight from Khartoum to Luxor, possibly in next few hours.

**Security:**

Overnight there were at least two shooting incidents by the "11/11" Embassy residential building in Maadi. During one of the incidents a mission member saw a bound and gagged person in the back of the vehicle involved. We are monitoring the situation closely with MOD contacts.

Two embassy armored vehicles that were stolen on Friday night were involved in shooting incidents the night of January 30-31 in Cairo neighborhoods of Maadi and Giza.

**Political:**

**Cairo is relatively calm this morning**, as has become the pattern. A few hundred stayed in Tahrir overnight. We expect demonstrations in Tahrir Square and elsewhere to continue today. Protesters continue to say they'll stay out in streets until Mubarak leaves office.

**Demonstrators have spontaneously called for a general strike today or possibly tomorrow.** Major opposition groups have not yet endorsed. With curfew, lack of internet, and security situation in neighborhoods many seem to be staying home anyway, though a general strike could further disrupt transportation, public services, etc. and increase the number of demonstrators.

We will carefully track efforts by the Parallel Parliament **negotiation committee to approach the government today.**

Speaker of Parliament announced probe into the Nov/Dec 2010 Parliamentary elections.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Shea, Peter T

**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 12:55 AM

**To:** Shea, Peter T; Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A;

[redacted] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F

**Subject:** Cairo Update 0055 January 31

**Management:**

Nothing additional

**Consular:**

CONS/RSO/CBP/GSO were at airport today making preliminary arrangements for evacuation. CONS staff will be at airport starting tomorrow AM to help private Americans. If Internet access is reestablished, we expect many more Americans will seek to enroll for evacuation.

TDY ConOffs scheduled to begin to arrive January 1. Embassy Amaan has also offered remote assistance.

**Security:**

Military protection of USG facilities remains steadfast. Police now supplementing military in Maadi residential area. Sporadic automatic weapons fire continues. "Neighborhood watch" groups present and now coordinating more with military units.

Military announcing ever longer curfews. On January 31 the curfew will begin at 3:00PM local and last until 8:00AM the next day.

No mission casualties. All mission personnel accounted for.

**Political:**

**Mubarak issued an "assignment letter" to new PM Shafik.** The eight tasks include "re-arranging priorities," defending stability and returning military to their barracks, controlling inflation and prices, countering corruption, and reestablishing confidence in the economy.

A party leader involved in the process explained to us this evening that the **Parallel Parliament today created a negotiating committee to approach the regime tomorrow about negotiating a transitional government.** Members of the committee include Mohamed El Baradei, Osama Al Ghazali Harb, Ayman Nour, Abdel Gileel Mustafa (NAC Chair), Hamdeen Sabai, Mohamed Beltagi (MB member of NAC), George Is'haq, and Judge Khodeiri. The MB Supreme Guide addressed the Parallel Parliament briefly before they formed the committee.

A member of the committee told us that "tomorrow we win or we don't." He said that an interim government must include all elements, and could include the military, so long as Mubarak goes. Another contact involved in the committee formation said that a technocrat transitional government may be best, and that this could include the military though civilians must outnumber them 2-1 and the transition must have a clear end. This contact voiced concern that the people in the street are "more advanced," that is less willing to allow any element of the existing regime to remain in the transition.

B6

**More reaction to S remarks:** An opposition party leader said that S sent "the right message" this morning.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Shea, Peter T

**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 9:55 PM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [redacted]

[redacted] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [redacted]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F; Marrano, Mark F

**Subject:** Cairo Update 2150 January 30

B6

Ambassador Scobey chaired a virtual EAC via conference call this evening. All sections and agencies were represented and briefed by the Ambassador, RSO, MGT Counselor, and ECPO Counselor on ongoing work by the Mission to address all aspects of the situation. EAC Members offered a number of helpful suggestions that will be pursued. Section and Agency heads will brief their employees and dependents on the material covered in the EAC with particular attention to ensuring that all Mission members understand fully the gravity of the security threats that prompted the Department's approval of Authorized Departure.

Management:

Management at Semiramis Hotel near Embassy and Tahrir Square is very concerned about a shortage of supplies. They are offering to help their guests make reservations at their sister hotel in City Stars. They are not closing however.

Consular:

Nothing additional

Security:

Nothing additional

Political:

**We have seen a positive reaction to today's S statement.** One political opposition leader told us that S remarks this morning were "received very well" and "more neutral." An human rights activist told us that Egyptians appreciate "improved" U.S. statements. Now, he told us, there is a "struggle between the Egyptian military and what the United States wants."

**Demonstrations in Tahrir Square tonight appear to be the largest yet this week.** Media estimates range from 50,000-100,000. The lower end of that range looks correct to us.

**At approximately 1900 local time El Baradei went to Tahrir Square.** He spoke immediately after Mohamed Beltagi, one of a handful of MB members of the NAC. Baradei said that people have one key demand: "the regime to step down and start a new era" and that "what we have begun cannot be reversed." Multiple LES contacts at Tahrir said Baradei drew

the crowd's attention. However, an LES contact at the square said some groups of demonstrators later started chanting against Baradei.

**Egyptian State TV has not covered El Baradei's speech.** They focused instead on Mubarak's visit to the "situation room" and calls to Mubarak by Pope Shenouda and Sheikh Al-Azhar.

**At Tahrir Square Baradei's associates distributed an "instructions manifesto"** on: 1) peaceful expression, 2) necessity of protecting property, public and private, 3) importance of regular people delivering public services even when government fails, 4) condemnation of "thuggery," 5) demand a National Reconciliation Gov't including all political trends. Fourteen groups signed the manifesto, including: El Baradei Campaign, Nat'l Front for Change, MBs, Wafd, Ghad, Gabha, Karama, Kifaya, April 6, March 9, Copt Youth Org, etc.

On various media Baradei said he has a "**popular and political authorization**" to **negotiate for forming the national unity government**. Our contacts confirm this. On CNN he added that he "hopes to be in contact soon with the army and we need to work together. The Army is a part of Egypt." An opposition activist told us that Baradei's remarks were "very smart" and well timed because they show there is another choice, though others expressed concern to us that he "arrived after the success."

**Muslim Brotherhood issued further statements in support of demonstrations and transition to a unity government.** "Al Arabiya" has said that the Muslim Brotherhood has authorized El Baradei to negotiate in their name. International media reported that MBs announced support for a transitional government led by El Baradei.

According to *IkhwanWeb* this afternoon, Dr. Mahmoud Ezzat the Deputy MB Supreme Guide said that the **MB requests that the Egyptian people protect public and private possessions and protect themselves from the militias** that conduct organized theft. Ezzat said the MBs formed popular committees along with the remaining national forces and citizens to protect their private and public properties and return of life to normal.

**There are indications this afternoon that police may be returning**, though away from demonstrators at Tahrir Square. Egyptian TV is saying "police are back to work" and LES have seen some police cars and repairs to police stations. An AUC Professor with security contacts confirmed that police will be back tomorrow but not dealing with demonstrators.

Former Defense Minister and Information Minister made public appearances today on Egyptian State TV in support of the troops.

The ongoing large demonstration in Alexandria has reportedly seen more women, more English signs, more self-identified MBs than in prior nights.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Shea, Peter T

**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 5:47 PM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F;

Marrano, Mark F

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1730 January 30

Ambassador spoke with Major General Al-Assar requesting additional security for residential areas, authorization for entry of the FAST team, and protection for the Al-Adly street synagogue. Ambassador also contacted Antiquities Minister Zahi Hawass about the Al-Adly street synagogue. Hawass said he would try to help. He noted that in addition to damage at the National Museum, there had been vandalism of some of the tomb paintings at Saqqara.

Management:

Finalizing lists of Embassy members wishing to depart on Authorized Departure.

Making final preparations for flights arriving tomorrow for departing embassy members.

Italian Embassy informed us that Italian Mission dependents were evacuated yesterday.

Consular:

Consular transmitted the latest travel warning. This has resulted in a flood of calls from anxious Amcits desperate to get out of the country. We are trying to utilize Task Force 2 as much as possible to handle the influx of calls.

Security:

We have heard that police are being called back to their posts or to nearest post in cases where police stations have been damaged.

Small-scale demonstrations have commenced in the area of Tahrir Square.

We have been advised that the Military will expand deployments from holding strong points to patrolling.

Political:

**Opposition has "not yet reached consensus"** according to one contact who was present at a gathering of opposition groups at mid-day. Meetings will continue. He said that the majority are behind a transitional government led by Al-Baradei, while some could accept a transitional government led by Suleiman. Contact said that his associates would not find the latter acceptable. Another opposition contact at the same meeting said it "didn't get too far." He did say that the group **agreed to send a delegation to new VP or PM**, but didn't decide on composition of the delegation. They will reportedly demand a unity government. The contact was pessimistic about Mubarak leaving, saying the President could probably survive in power if he has the Army's backing. He said that the most recent US statements are better – "more neutral."

Online independent Egyptian news source reports calls for **"one million person demonstration" starting 1600 today in Tahrir, as well as a general strike on Tuesday**. Statement was unsigned, but praised popular protection groups that have been working to stop looters. Same source also said that judges joined demos today in Tahrir. Various media and twitter reports that military is searching people entering Tahrir Square and reportedly detaining any members of police or security forces found trying to enter the area. There are also unconfirmed reports that 500k plan to spent tonight at Alexandria University.

Shortly before 1300 local time **Ministry of Information has issued an order to close Al Jazeera** and confiscate its offices and equipment. We are not seeing Al Jazeera Arabic on satellite TV, but do get Al Jazeera English.

According to international media **Egyptian military has taken control of the Ministry of Interior Headquarters** building close to Tahrir Square. Al Jazeera is reporting – but otherwise unconfirmed – that former MOI Al-Adly and Ahmed Ezz have been arrested by the military and will be tried. In an interview with Al Arabiya, Maguid Sherbeeney said he is the replacement for Ahmed Ezz at the NDP.

State TV announced **two new governors**: North Sinai – Abdel Wahab Mabrouk --and “New Valley” -- Gamal Ahmed Imbabi Salman (more details at next update).

**April 6** demands remain maximalist. Suleiman is not suitable and police must be brought to justice, though would be welcome back if part of a democratic transition. Prominent AUC professor with political connections said that Suleiman would be okay if “purely transitional.” He also thought Suleiman could win a free and fair election. In the near-term, he said every day Mubarak stays things will get worse on the streets in terms of law and order. A street activist with the Egyptian Democratic Academy said that Suleiman is a good first step, but not the end result. Also said young activists “getting tired.”

**Egyptian State TV** is continuously showing one peaceful image of downtown. There are contradictory messages – 1) “life is back to normal,” you can leave your houses, 2) there are still reasons to be concerned about chaos and looting (lots of interviews of women crying about “out of control” areas – highlighting looting in 6 October, sacking of Carrefour shopping mall, etc.), 3) military is the hero and doing its utmost to maintain order.

Al Mehwar TV – private station – reporting phone calls from people in Sinai claiming that **GOE has sent tanks and troops into Sinai**. Speakers speculate that these increases fall outside of Camp David.

Two LES reported that groups of vigilantes in their neighborhoods last night caught looters who had police weapons and police IDs on them.

Unconfirmed reports from LES that that young men are being called up into Army Reserve.

Armed forces announcing death toll at 150.

Central Bank announced that banks will remain closed Monday.

Late afternoon mil fighter aircraft and helicopters “buzzed” Tahrir Square. Crowd defiantly yelled back.

#### PA:

PA is fielding non-stop calls from media regarding authorized departure.

Both international and Egyptian media news teams are now setting up more robust operations in several large hotels in order to have access to communications systems/servers not affected by the internet blackout.

#### Alexandria:

Both Al Nozha Airport (downtown) and Borg El Arab Airport (45 mins outside Alex) are open; however, unable to confirm the frequency of incoming and outgoing flights. At least two student groups have chartered flights from Alexandria and are currently at the airport awaiting them. Trains are operating with high usage rate. Today’s regularly scheduled 12:00 train stopped at each train station and was subject to some military checkpoints which are not considered routine. Military were present at each train station.

Schools and Universities remain closed. Businesses not uniformly closed. Mostly smaller neighborhood businesses which remain open. Some government operated stores are showing increase in food prices. Bead shops have greater demand than supply; however, remain orderly.

Security: Greater military presence today than yesterday. Four Season's Hotel being surrounded by two tanks/people movers. Reports from APP local staff of looting and formation of vigilante groups throughout the city last night. Today, general sense of calm; however, not "business as usual" given heavy military presence and damage from previous days' protests. General sense also that military is the only authority, given lack of police, state security, and governor's presence (governor has not been seen/heard from in recent days). Local security reports that Alex Desert Road and Agriculture Road are not safe for travel. Unconfirmed reports of car jackings and bandits along these roads.

Peter Shea  
ECPO  
X2367

[REDACTED]

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 10:46 AM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S; Doyle, Robert F

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1030 January 30

Protesters are expected to return to Tahrir again today. The military has now blocked key roads to downtown and is turning around cars seeking to come downtown. Protesters interviewed by Al Jazeera in Cairo report they will continue to protest until Mubarak leaves office. Internet access remains blocked. Egypt TV reports that 1,400 prisoners escaped from a prison in Fayoum and 8,000 in Wadi Natrun and are on their way to nearby cities of Cairo and Alexandria as well as towns in the Delta province of Beheira. They report that prisoners overpowered prison guards and are now armed.

Management:

We are currently compiling lists for post's authorized departure. No other updates since conference call.

Consular:

No updates

Security:

Consular support to the airport will depart at 10:35am.

Political:

No senior government officials have made any announcements about the new government or the future of the country. An opposition contact told us that a broad coalition of opposition leaders would be meeting at approx 1100 local time to discuss the way forward. He said he would advocate for a transitional government under the leadership of

B6

the current VP and PM, believing military men were needed in order to regain control over security in the country. A military spokesman issued two statements (one in the name of now former MOD Tantawi) calling on Egyptians to protect their homes, noting the military is going after looters and affirming some have been arrested by military forces. There continue to be rumors about the whereabouts of members of the former government. A contact reported that Former Finance Minister Yousef Boutros Ghali is staying at a friend's house. Not clear if he is trapped there or avoiding returning to his home. We had previously received word from another contact that Boutros-Ghali had fled the country. Prominent Coptic businessman Naguib Sawiris called into an Egyptian state TV talk show this morning to confirm that he did not leave the country as alleged on Al Jazeera.

The theme of the official news here is that there is an outside agenda to promote chaos in Egypt. Egypt TV hosts told viewers that the satellite networks had an agenda in Egypt. They urged viewers to get their news from official sources. The call-in show also noted efforts by citizens to defend the country including video of young men defending the National Museum and sweeping the streets of Tahrir square. ETV 1 is playing patriotic music videos during commercial breaks. The same channel had another guest that told viewers that violence when defending ones home and family is permitted in Islam.

MB Arabic Website Ikwanonline's front page banner reports its editor was attacked by an "organized gang" in Cairo, posts the free emergency number established by the military to report problems, and reiterates an earlier call by the MB Supreme Guide that calls on the "youth" and the "Egyptian people" to protect public and private property. January 29 MB Guide Badie issued a statement posted early afternoon on Ikhwanweb that explicitly endorsed the protests, noted MB participation. It called for an end to the state of Emergency, dissolution of parliament, new elections, release of political prisoners, a transitional national unity government, a national committee to investigate violence against demonstrators; all "demands" that track with earlier statements from other opposition groups including the National Association for Change which has some MB members. This is the first formal statement we've seen from the MB leader both endorsing the protests and affirming MB participation.

Aimee Cutrona

ECPO

x3892

[Redacted]

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 1:51 AM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [Redacted]

[Redacted] Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S

**Subject:** Cairo Update 0145 January 30

B6

Sorry time correction.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Cutrona, Aimee**Sent:** Sunday, January 30, 2011 1:49 AM**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S**Subject:** RE: Cairo Update 2330 January 29

*This will be the last SitRep for a few hours. We'll resume in the morning Cairo time.*

Staff reporting to us on events in Tahrir has now gone home. Protestors remain in Tahrir but numbers appear to be dwindling due to the late hour and cold weather.

**Consular:**

Although consular staff continued to receive many calls from Amcits worried about potential violence near their homes in various Cairo neighborhoods, thus far we have no reports of Amcits injured. Routine consular services are suspended for Sunday January 30. Although there are some reports of chaotic conditions at Cairo Airport, we confirmed that Amcits and other travelers departed safely on the Air France flight to Paris on Saturday afternoon. Consular staff will attempt to visit the airport Sunday morning with RSO assistance.

**Security:**

The neighborhood around the Embassy is quiet. Looting is still going on around the city. The Military has taken control of Maadi. There are reports of gunfire in Maadi, most of it appears to be coming from the Military whom we assume are going after looters.

**Political:**

Mona Suef of the Hisham Mubarak Center appearing on Al Jazeera Int'l reported that today there were tens of thousands of "all types" of Egyptians in Tahrir square including families and children. She added that in clashes between police and protestors in front of the Ministry of the Interior, the Army acted only as "bystanders." She reported that one protestor died in those clashes. The Army, she said, was not intervening on behalf of protestors or the police. Al Ahram analyst Di'a Rashwan told Al Jazeera viewers that the new government might survive if they took advantage of the historic opportunity to implement reform. This includes constitutional changes and new parliamentary elections. Rashwan added that Mubarak might even remain at the helm if the new government implemented real changes. Press is reporting that more than a dozen Egyptian businessmen fled to the UAE.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Cutrona, Aimee**Sent:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 11:43 PM**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S**Subject:** Cairo Update 2330 January 29

Protests in Tahrir Square continue but the crowd has dwindled noticeably. Media reports that the crowd continues to chant anti-Mubarak slogans. One staff reports that he witnessed an uptick in anti-American sentiment in Tahrir, with more chanting slogans against the U.S. After the swearing in of Vice President Suleiman was carried live on Egyptian TV there have been no additional announcements by Mubarak or members of the new government.

Consular:

Consular staff continue to receive a high volume of calls from Amcits around the city seeking assistance in returning to the U.S. For most of the afternoon it was a mix of calls from tourists and residents. After dark the majority of calls have been from dual national Amcits in areas where looters are prevalent in the neighborhoods. Amcits are reporting no police or military presence and no answer when they try to phone police stations.

Security:

Earlier this evening, the building adjacent to our 100% USG residential building, Boulas Hanna, was looted. The 10 family members in Boulas Hanna sought refuge in the safe haven of the top most apartment. A neighborhood watch eventually ran the looters out of the area as they began to target our building. A second apartment building, this time in Maadi, was attacked by looters at approx 2000. The embassy maintains two of the eight residences. The looters departed as a tank approached the building at the request of the Embassy. We have requested the assistance of the military in securing our residences, Since approximately 2200 we have received a series of reports that military units, supported by armored vehicles, tanks, and troop trucks, have arrived at our residential compounds in Maadi and Zamalek. RSO now has direct contact with senior Army commander who has been responsive to requests for emergency response at several standalone residences where occupants were under siege by looters.

Police are still absent from streets in Cairo. The stand-off between protestors and police at the MOI quieted for some time, but media reports sporadic but very heavy gunfire from in front of the Ministry of Interior. Two APCs block the street between Tahrir and the MOI building and several hundred protestors reportedly are milling around.

Press and staff report that some military (and 'civilian militias') were checking ID's randomly to prevent people going into areas where they do not reside. Numerous reports that civilian militias arrested plain-clothed MOI officers, many of whom were driving around on motorbikes and were possibly involved in looting.

Political:

Reports are circulating on twitter that Mubarak sons Gamal and Alaa Mubarak have landed in London. The tweets include what is alleged to be the family's address in London. One contact reports to us that former PM Ahmed Nazif has departed his home with a "large entourage." An NDP contact tells us that he is frustrated with the current chaos noting "we" (party reformers) had been warning "them" of this scenario for a long time. He felt that the NDP itself was moribund, but believed it could return to the political scene if "faces change." He added that the Ahmed Ezz resignation should have come right after the failed elections. Now it was meaningless. He added, once again we told a "closed party committee" you can't have "boys" dealing with these issues, but they did not act. The contact said he believed that people were looking for more than what Mubarak had offered. He added that while some reform measures might calm people down for a time, they will not be happy unless he goes. Finally, he applauded President Obama's remarks which he viewed as endorsing the will of the Egyptian people.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 7:53 PM

**To:** Cutrona, Aimee; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Shampaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley,

Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1; McHale, Judith A; Hensman, Chris D; NEA-PD-DL

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1930 January 29

Violence is escalating in Cairo. There is widespread looting and Embassy staff in Maadi, Mohandiseen and Giza report gunfire. Press reported an attempt to break into the Central Bank Printing office was thwarted by the Egyptian Army. Contacts and LES staff report that organized gangs of thugs roam the city and that they believe them to be affiliated with the security services. Shops in most neighborhoods are closing. We have several reports that citizens are forming committees to defend their neighborhoods. An Army general appeared on State TV asking Egyptians to defend their homes and deal with looters "harshly." He also said the Army would fire on looters.

Protestors continue to arrive in Tahrir square and contacts tell us the atmosphere is peaceful and festive. One contact told us the crowd is treating the military like "rock stars." Al Hurra TV showed one soldier with a bull horn telling protestors you may protest as much as you like, but no violence. And, leave the looters to us.

As of 19:10 Egypt Air New York Flight Manager Mr. Tarek Gabr advised that the airport is open and Egypt Air flights are operational with minor delay.

While several of our contacts see Omar Suleiman as a popular figure with broad support, they see his appointment as Vice President as too little too late. Contacts report crowds in Tahrir booed the announcement. Many in Tahrir continue to shout "People and Army, one hand!," but others have shifted from "No Mubarak" to "No Suleiman" or "Civilian not Military." Staff in Tahrir report some anti-U.S. sentiment, with protestors suggesting that the new Vice President was hand-picked by the U.S.

Opposition and activist contacts tell us the Soliman announcement, as well as the naming of former military officer and Civil Aviation Minister Ahmed Shafik as Prime Minister, is "not enough" to satisfy protestors. Some suggest an immediate end to the Emergency Law or an announcement of the dissolution of parliament and new elections as needed additional steps. Others say that only Mubarak's departure would be enough to calm the crowds. One contact told us protestors are now also chanting "Trial for Mubarak." A leader from Baradei's National Association for Change (NAC) told us that this appointment is "is more of the same," the Mubarak regime with "new faces" and not the change we are looking for.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Cutrona, Aimee

**Sent:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 5:28 PM

**To:** Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin; TaskForce-1

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S

**Subject:** Cairo Update 1700 January 29

At approximately 1715 Egyptian TV announced EGIS director Omar Suleiman as Vice President. This was following the mid-day announcement that that the government had formally resigned and later reports in the afternoon that President Mubarak was meeting with his new cabinet. Mubarak is expected to make an announcement "shortly."

B6

People continue to flow into Tahrir square. As of 1300, crowds are again swelling in the Maadi and Tahrir Square areas. Military units have taken up positions throughout the area, many staffed by M60 tanks and a variety of other types of armored personnel carriers.

We have been able to resume contact with a wide range of activist contacts. All of them tell us that they still believe protests must continue and that President Mubarak should step down. Several senior activist contacts report that they are participating in protests. One activist contact told us that he had been shot with a rubber bullet by security outside the Ministry of the Interior building a block behind the parliament. Protestors have been attempting to reach the MOI all day.

At 1330 local time the military announced an expanded curfew which began at 1600 and will end one hour later at 0800. We are watching closely the military's interaction with protestors. Al Jazeera has issued a series reports that appear contradictory, and suggest a disagreement between the military and the presidency on how to deal with protestors. NDP SYG Safwat Sherif announced that party organizational secretary Ahmed Ezz, charged with organizing recent elections, had submitted his resignation. He did not elaborate on the reasons behind the resignation. An NDP contact told us he believes the police will return to the street "shortly."

Demonstrations continued through the evening of January 28 in Cairo. Finally wearing down in the early morning hours, only small bands of demonstrators roamed throughout the area of the Embassy by 0600. The Army's Republican Guard took up positions around the Embassy perimeter beginning at approx 2300. The Colonel who was tasked with our security was also given the unenviable job of coordinating with the local police. Police were exhausted and demoralized after having been on duty since Monday.

The battles throughout the day were devastating and the police appeared leaderless and without motivation. The police have established weak checkpoints adjacent to the bollard lined perimeter of the streets surrounding the US and British Embassies. The police are not equipped for less than lethal force, carrying sniper rifles, RPGs, machine guns, and AK-47s. We have varying reports on the numbers of casualties resulting from clashes yesterday between police and protestors. The highest estimate we've seen is 150.

We have accounted for 18 of the 23 vehicles taken from our "Polish Parking Lot", approximately 100 meters north of the embassy. According to local security sources one of the armored vehicles was involved in an accident in which between 3-6 police officers were killed. While attempting to recover the diplomatic plates from one of the vehicles which was found on the Corniche, approximately 2 miles south of the embassy, one of the ARSOs was chased by a sword and knife wielding crowd who appeared to be waiting for someone to stop at the vehicle.

Police in Maadi, a residential area, were involved in numerous live fire gun fights throughout the night, adjacent to the embassy residential compound known as 11/11. The embassy continues to advertise the stand fast instruction via the radio network and the mission phone tree.

Member of El Baradei's National Association for Change (NAC) affirmed to us at 1345 that Baradei had never been under house arrest, but had remained at his home overnight. Contacts told us the NAC had understood Baradei would go out today but that he changed his plans this morning and will remain at home. NAC members said they had planned to protest today but needed to consider the new curfew. The NAC, which includes several opposition parties and protest movements as well as some members of the MB met this afternoon issued a set of demands that includes replacing Mubarak, establishing an interim government, drafting a new constitution, an end to the Emergency Law, release of political prisoners, and a series of economic demands (full text attached). The NAC has also called for the formation of local popular committees to secure neighborhoods. Egyptian TV is reporting that the Muslim Brotherhood is also forming its own neighborhood committees. We have been told that the parallel parliament will meet tomorrow to issue its own statement.

Activist and opposition contacts report that they are disappointed with President Mubarak's speech. They are looking for more and believe that protests must continue in order to demonstrate that they are serious about change. Several expected the new Prime Minister would be from the military. Contacts with close contact with the Muslim Brotherhood

affirm the MB played a role in yesterday's protests but believes them "very cautious," suggesting they were never more than 20 percent of the crowd.

Many newsstands closed today, but newspapers did get published late and were out in some places. Pro Government papers (Al Ahram, Akhbar, and Gomhouria) all ran similar front page stories re "Mubarak asks Govt to resign and warns against plots to shake stability & violate legitimacy." Independent and opposition papers Al Wafd, AMAY, and Al Shorouk were all on the newsstands.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Tueller, Matthew H

**Sent:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 12:51 AM

**To:** Walles, Jacob; Blome, Donald A; Cutrona, Aimee; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Champaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Kosa, Lauren S; Parrs, Walter; Wittes, Tamara C; Allen, Katherine E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Holtz, Greta C (NEA); Crowley, Philip J; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Sullivan, Jacob J; Pelton, Erin

**Cc:** Scobey, Margaret; O'Dowd, Stephen; Miller, Bill A; Berns, David B; Shea, Peter T; Kennedy, David JR; Colton, Elizabeth O; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Newman, Robert B; Singer, Theodore J; Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Dana S

**Subject:** Cairo Update midnight Friday

All personnel at the Embassy compound are accounted for and will remain through the night in safe haven area. Egyptian military have established checkpoints outside the compound perimeter. In coordination with RSO, DATT, and Ministry of Interior officials the military units appear to be making progress on restoring control of the roads adjacent to the Embassy. Preliminary assessment is that 23 USG vehicles have been taken from the Polish parking. We are unable to assess other physical damage to facilities. One Embassy vehicle can be seen on its side burning on a side street. Guard booth at the north parking lot has been gutted by fire, booth at one drop arm has been damaged. There are a number of burned police vehicles in the area. Police remaining around the Embassy are demoralized and extremely tired. Some appear to be under pursuit by protestors.

The number of protestors moving into the main square of the city is increasing notwithstanding the curfew and deployment of military forces. Sound of gunfire is ongoing.

We have been able to contact and account for all but 9 U.S. Direct Hire employees via landline phone calls or checking on residences. Efforts to ascertain the whereabouts of those we have been unable to contact are ongoing.

RSO reports seeing protestors armed with AK-47's and there is gunfire being exchanged between military and protestors. We also have credible reports of gunfire from Embassy residents in Maadi. Looters have been observed in Maadi as well as burning of stores and vehicles. Earlier in the evening a large group of protestors were trying to get to the Israeli Ambassador's residence near the main Maadi police station.

Senior Mission staff in our residential neighborhoods spent time before nightfall contacting families and checking on mood which appears to run the gamut. Many are understandably jittery giving sound of gunfire and sighting from balconies of fires and looters. As circumstances permit on Saturday we will explore other ways of convening mission employees and family members to convey information and assess morale.

One consular officer at the Embassy and seven from their homes are fielding calls from concerned U.S. citizens. We are advising U.S. citizens to remain safely in their homes or hotels. Most U.S. citizen concerns

center around lack of internet access and potential airport closures. We are not aware yet of any Amcits injured in today's events.

Five private Amcits have taken refuge on the Embassy compound and are in the safe haven area.

Due to communication limitations we are unable to provide any reaction to President Mubarak's speech. Once mobile phone and internet access is restored, post will make every effort to reach out to wide range of contacts for an assessment.

Matthew H. Tueller  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
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**SBU**  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.