

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASE IN FULL

February 14, 2011

For: Hillary  
From: Sid  
Re: Latest intel report and more on events of 2/11

13 February:

After taking steps to dissolve the Parliament and suspend the Constitution, Egypt's Minister of Defense, Field Marshall Hussein Tantawi stated that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) intended to keep Prime Minister Ahmed Shafik in his position, overseeing the day to day activities of the Egyptian Government bureaucracy. Tantawai and the other members of the SCAF will concentrate on restoring order and using the resources of the Army to distribute food and essential supplies around the country, following the demonstrations in late January and Early February that led to the fall of President Hosni Mubarak. The SCAF will also monitor the development of new political parties, and their current plans are to call for national elections to take place in September 2011.

The most important factor in this transition to a new government is the drafting of a revised constitution, ending the state of emergency that was put into place by Mubarak after the assassination of his predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat, in October 1981. Tantawi stated privately that he expects that once the members of the pro-democracy movement have organized into political parties, they will begin to press for rapid passage of a new constitution and early elections. Tantawi emphasized in the strongest terms that there would be no elections before September 2011, adding that if the drafting of the new constitution turns out to be as complicated as he expects, elections could be delayed until September 2012. He added that elections would not be delayed beyond that date.

Tantawi and his colleagues on the SCAF are also considering the future of Mubarak's Vice President, Omar Suleiman. At present they are divided on whether or not to allow him to remain in the government, with General Sami Annan, the Chief of Staff of the Army, pressing for his dismissal. Tantawi on the other hand believes Suleiman's international contacts and his knowledge of Egypt's security and Intelligence community make him valuable. They agree that until his future is decided Suleiman will keep a low profile.

(Source Comment: Suleiman presents challenges for the SCAF. The members of the Council are concerned that as the head of the intelligence and security services Suleiman has collected derogatory information on many senior government and military officials--information that he could use to embarrass the new government if he believes he has been ill treated.)