

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 1, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Egypt in Libya; US rhetoric

I am told this information is especially sensitive. Two points that can be drawn:

1. The commitment of Egyptian Special Forces to the overthrow of Qaddafi is rooted in more than longstanding Egyptian hostility to Qaddafi, but also the Egyptians' belief that their economic future may be greatly aided by the outcome in Libya and the relationship with post-Qaddafi Libya.
2. The personal name-calling by certain U.S. officials of Qaddafi is stiffening his resistance and he is using it internally to support his case with his followers that he is fighting Western/Israeli imperialism, foreign interests, etc., according to one of his advisers. This rhetoric differs from the formal condemnations of Qaddafi's abusive rule and policies by other senior officials and Western governments.

During late February, 2011 Field Marshall Hussein Tantawi, Chairman of Egypt's ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) and Army Chief of Staff Sami Annan ordered elite, clandestine Special Operations units of the Egyptian Army to begin carefully providing support to the forces fighting against Libya's Muammar Qaddafi. Officers from these clandestine units have crossed the border into Libya and made contact with representatives of the National Libyan Council (NLC) in Benghazi and begun discussing how to provide support and weapons to the opposition forces. This aid will be particularly valuable as these anti-government forces are formed into rudimentary military units by Libyan Army officers who have gone over to the opposition. These Egyptian troops are operating with great care, as Tantawi and the other members of the SCAF do not want this effort to come