

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

February 2, 2012

For: HRC
From: Sid
Re: Muslim Brothers at Davos and beyond

SOURCE: Sources with access to the highest levels of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, and Western Intelligence and security services.

1. According to an individual with access to highest levels of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood (MB), speaking in strict secrecy, as of early February 2012 Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie and the leadership of the MB were pleased with the attention given to Egypt during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. These senior Brothers are convinced that the leaders of the Western nations accept the MB as the new, dominant force in Egypt and are adjusting their foreign and economic policies accordingly.

2. At the same time, Badie discussed this matter at length with the leaders of the MB's political arm, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), Saad Al-Katany, speaker of the new lower house of Parliament, and Mohamed Mursi. In these conversations Badie warned that the MB and the FJP must now strike a balance between these Western interests and their rank and file supporters and allies, who expect the new government of Egypt to move toward a more traditional Islamic state. In the end, Badie and his advisors agreed that, as matters progress, those Western governments, firms, and banks that demonstrate a sense of creative flexibility in dealing with the civilian government of Egypt will prosper under the new regime. Badie was particularly pleased that while the question of Egyptian-Israeli relations came up in recent discussions with Western business and diplomatic leaders, the most important individuals appeared to realize that relations between Egypt and Israel will change dramatically, and while Egypt does not want a military confrontation with Israel they will no longer view them as a partner in the region.

3. (Source Comment: In the opinion of a very sensitive source, Badie was pleasantly surprised that the visit to Davos of Presidential candidate Abdoul Moniem Aboul Fotouh served to improve the reputation of the MB among western government and business leaders. Fotouh, a

former member of ruling council of the MB, left the Brotherhood to run for president after Badie and the senior brothers decided that the FJP and other MB supported groups would focus on gaining control of Parliament. Badie did note that Fotouh is a long-shot to win the presidency, with MB polling indicating that Amr Moussa appears to be headed for victory in the elections later this year. This turn of events is acceptable to the MB leadership, since Moussa was a member of the Brotherhood when he was at University, and the FJP/Salafist al Nour party coalition will draft a constitution that centers national power with the Parliament.)

4. The MB leaders are also pleased with the results of discussions with the United States Government, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), both of which, in the analysis of the MB leaders, appear to accept the idea of Egypt as an Islamic state. They are also encouraged by the planned arrival of delegations of U.S. business leaders scheduled to arrive in Cairo in February and March 2012. Badie views these visits as an opportunity to reassure the Western leaders that Egypt will be a responsible partner in business and diplomatic affairs, while demonstrating to the average Egyptian that the new government will deal with these Western powers on equal terms.

5. (Source Comment: According to a very sensitive source, a particularly senior Brother warned Badie that in any discussions with Westerner leaders, MB representatives must not mistake polite, diplomatic language for firm commitments on important issues. This individual stated that such a turn of events will only lead to confusion, and in the end undermine their efforts. They must press their Western interlocutors for clear explanations of any matters discussed, particularly regarding relations with Israel. This individual also warned that delegations arriving before the election process is complete in the fall of 2012 will be dealing with both the MB/FJP controlled parliament, and an interim government under the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), under acting head of state Field Marshall Mohammed Hussein Tantawi. This individual did note that if the MB handles this process in an effective manner it will not only help the Egyptian economy, but also discourage any inclination the SCAF may have to interfere in the process. As the U.S. and the other Western powers engage with the MB, it will be more difficult for the military to take action against them in the event of a disagreement as the establishment of the new civilian government moves forward throughout 2012.)