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PoL Kuw- US
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[redacted]

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ACTION: AmEmbassy KUWAIT

XR DEF 19-6 USSR-UAR
XR PoL 27 ARAB-ISR

INFO: AmEmbassy AMMAN
AmEmbassy BEIRUT
AmEmbassy JIDDA
AmEmbassy TEL AVIV
USINT CAIRO

STATE 1970-5-4, US, Overall

67591

SUBJ: Call by Kuwaiti Ambassador on Asst. Secretary Sisco

EXDIS

SUMMARY: Kuwait Ambassador Ghoussein called on Asst. Secretary Sisco May 4 for general tour d'horizon. Sisco discussed his recent area trip, and stated implications of participation Soviet pilots in UAR air defense were still under study. He emphasized to Ghoussein clear evidence USG support for territorial integrity all nations in area.

1. Sisco said that his recent visit to area capitals amply confirmed to him there no substitute for face-to-face discussions. UAR leadership had given him cordial welcome. In Cairo he had sought to eliminate at least some misunderstandings USG positions and thereby lessen, to degree possible, distrust in minds UAR leadership of USG intentions towards

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NEA/ARP:RWMurphy:tce	5/4/70	22647	NEA - Joseph J. Sisco

CLEARANCES:
NEA - Mr. Atherton
S/S - Mr. Lloyd

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peace settlement. He told Nasser, and said he would be repeating the same message to Israeli PriMin Meir, that there would be no peace in foreseeable future as long as both sides stuck to their maximal positions on refugees, territorial changes, and negotiations. He found it encouraging that no party in area had written off USG role in helping bring about peace settlement.

2. Sisco said he had left no doubt USG supported existence and security of Israel. At same time he had sought to counter the UAR conviction that USG totally committed to Israeli side by detailing three decisions of Nixon Administration in which USG had disassociated itself from Israeli positions. These were decisions to enter Two- and Four-Power talks, to put forward the October and December formulations and not tp provide additional Phantom aircraft to Israel at this time.

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3. Re Jordan, Sisco said he regretted his visit to Amman had proved impossible but assured Ghoussein that talks were in train to clear up any misunderstandings.

4. Ghoussein said he had been very pleased to read Sisco's public statements about importance of Palestinians to peace settlement. Saying he was speaking as ex-Palestinian rather than Kuwait Ambassador, Ghoussein stressed Palestinians could assist but more importantly could frustrate peace settlement. In latter case even full agreement between Hussein and Nasser on settlement terms with Israel could founder on Palestinian objections. Sisco said question arises which Palestinians would be consulted. Problem is amorphous nature of Palestinian groups and leadership. Ghoussein acknowledged this but warned that passage of time would radicalize even the relative moderates among Palestinian spokesmen such as Fatah and PLO leadership.

5. Sisco said USG happy to see progress on resolving

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Status of Bahrain and expressed support for continued movement towards federation among Gulf states. On Yemen, he asked Ghoussein relay to GOK USG hope that GOK would review YARG financial plight to see how GOK might be of assistance. Ghoussein agreed to report this to Kuwait.

6. Asked about USG reactions to Soviet pilot participation in UAR air defense, Sisco said we were still engaged in full review ordered by President. He noted, however, that participation of Soviet pilots had [redacted] injected new factor to equation. There were two questions involved: Effect of this development on relative military capabilities and what this participation indicated of intentions of both Soviets and UAR. Sisco noted that one element in President's March decision not to provide further Phantom aircraft to Israel at that time had been our assessment that qualitative superiority of Israeli Air Force compensated for its quantitative inferiority. While effect of Soviet participation on capabilities UAR air defense now had to be weighed, even more important was

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question of intentions both of parties in area and of USSR. President had earlier signalled to Kosygin he expected positive response to USG restraint on further plane deliveries. In Middle East, it was crucial that there be no misunderstandings between Soviets and U.S. of each other's intentions.

7. Ghoussein asked how balance of power in area had been upset by new participation of Soviet pilots and what would have been USG response had Arabs "by some miracle" occupied part of Israel's territory in 1967 War? Sisco acknowledged that for moment Israelis and Soviets were acting with prudence to avoid direct confrontation. He could not say what U.S. actions would have been had course of June War gone against Israel but assuming Ghoussein's real question was what importance does USG attach to territorial integrity of all nations in area, our policy and actions were clear. Sisco referred to his statement about Lebanon last October. Beyond this statement, it had been made amply clear to Lebanese and Israelis that U.S. would countenance no change of Lebanese and Israeli

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boundaries. He then referred to USG formulations of last October and December. These contain clear proof our full support for territorial integrity of all states in the area;sEgypt was to maintain its international boundaries and any changes to Jordan/Israel boundaries were to be mutually agreed upon to meet security considerations. GP-3.

END

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