CONFIDENTIAL

March 8, 2012

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Egypt president: Army & MB agree on Amr Moussa

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. In a series of meetings beginning in mid-February 2012 staff officers attached to the Egyptian Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) met with their established senior contacts in the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) to discuss the upcoming elections for the upper house of parliament and the office of President. Sources with access to the highest levels of both the SCAF and the MB stated that these discussions revolved principally around the role of the President and the national elections scheduled for June, 2012. In addition, MB Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie asked the MB representatives to clarify the SCAF view of the candidacies of two prominent military figures, Army General Hossam Khairallah, and Air Marshal Ahmed Shafik. Speaking on behalf of the SCAF commander and interim head of state, Field Marshall Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, these SCAF staff officers reported to their MB contacts that like Badie the SCAF expects former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Arab League chief Amr Moussa to be elected President in June 2012. Both groups believe that Moussa will be a good fit for what will be a largely ceremonial position under the MB dominated civilian government that is coming into power.

2. In the opinion of knowledgeable sources with access to both the SCAF and the MB, Badie, and his senior advisors, along with their coalition partners from the Salafist al Nour party, believe that the new President will have nominal administrative authority over military, security, and foreign affairs, however, he must be prepared to defer to the MB/al Nour led parliament on all major policy decisions. The MB and SCAF officials agree that Moussa is best suited for this role, particularly given the fact that Moussa has a past association with the MB dating back to his days at university. The SCAF officials add that Khairallah, the longtime deputy for former President Hosni Mubarak's Intelligence Chief, General Omar Suleiman is too closely associated

with the old regime. The SCAF officers also stated that Khairallah is running without the agreement of Tantawi, who was a longtime rival of Suleiman during the Mubarak administration. By the same token, they point out that Shafik was an Air Force officer, with a weak relationship to the senior Army officers associated with the SCAF, this despite the fact that he was Prime Minister under Tantawi.

3. (Source Comment: A particularly sensitive source added that after thirty years of suppressing the MB, as Suleiman's deputy, Khairallah is viewed with real animosity by Badie and the senior leaders of the Brotherhood. They also believe that, while Khairallah and his advisors are convinced the rank and file Egyptians are looking for a strongman to lead them out of the current economic and political crisis, they are out of touch with the social and political reality of post-revolutionary Egypt. They do not consider Shafik to be a serious candidate, given his ties to Mubarak. These MB officials also believe that Tantawi realizes now that having a former senior military officer as President will allow the MB to blame any future economic or security problems on the military.)

4. According to a sensitive source, MB polling in mid-February 2012 showed Moussa winning approximately forty (40) per cent of the vote nationwide, with Shafik in second place with ten per cent of the voters. At the same time, Badie and the leaders of the al Nour Party believe that, as was the case with elections for the lower house of parliament, they will control approximately seventy five (75) per cent of the upper house. Voting in this last round of parliamentary elections ends on March 11, after which the MB/al Nour coalition will begin organizing the first civilian government, which will take office in the fall of 2012.