

ogy that all other governments of the Middle East would want immediately in equivalent or more lethal form.

I left the meeting with the conviction that if the President, following his conversation with Ben-Gurion, asked a reassessment of the request for the "Hawk", responsibility for resistance will rest completely with the Department and we shall receive no support from Defense for reasons of national security or classification.

End FYI.

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#### 44. Editorial Note

On May 8, 1961, United Arab Republic Ambassador Mostafa Kamel met with President Kennedy from 3:45 to 4:50 p.m. (Kennedy Library, President's Appointment Books) No memorandum of the conversation has been found either in Department of State files or in the Kennedy Library. Telegram 1970 to Cairo, May 11, contained the following brief account: "President inquired whether number subjects, such as Palestine refugee question, which he was discussing with Kamel might not appropriately be pursued with Ben-Gurion." (Department of State, Central Files, 611.86B/5-1161) On May 17, Kamel told Department of State officials that, during his conversation with the President, "he had had full opportunity to set forth the concerns of the Arabs, that he had urged that the U.S. make no effort to disturb the status quo in the Middle East, that the President had discussed with him what it would be useful for him to tell Ben-Gurion, that he had found the President a man of great breadth and clear understanding, that he had made a full report to Cairo, and that the reaction of Cairo had been most favorable." (Memorandum of conversation; *ibid.*, 611.86B/5-1761)

A briefing memorandum from Secretary Rusk to President Kennedy on May 5 to help the President prepare for the meeting with Kamel is *ibid.*, 601.86B11/5-561. An account of Assistant Secretary of State Talbot's brief discussion with Kennedy prior to the Kennedy-Kamel meeting is in a memorandum for the files by Brewer, May 8. (*ibid.*, 601.86B11/5-861) For texts, see Supplement, the compilation on the United Arab Republic.