



HOUSTON REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CENTER

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Implications for Houston from the change of leadership in Egypt.

With the announcement that President Hosni Mubarak has not only relinquished authority to the Vice President, but has stepped down from the Presidential position, short term instability is the keyword for Egypt and the immediate region. After handing control to the military, it would seem logical that Army Chief of Staff Sami Annan (also found as Sami Enan) will be the interim leader. During the previous 18 days of protests the Egyptian military has done an exemplary job of maintaining civility at a point when it could have moved violently in either direction. Annan is viewed by 'prominent muslim clerics' as a liberal and likely suitable for replacement in the interim. The claim was made by Kamal EL-HEBAWY, a senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Despite the claim on 2/10/11 by DNI Clapper that the Muslim Brotherhood is a 'secular movement', the open source documentation contrary to that viewpoint is overwhelming.

Given the world wide attention the protests and resignation of Mubarak have been given and the demand for 'democracy', we can expect elections to take place in Egypt as scheduled in September 2011. What remains to be seen is to what extent the Muslim Brotherhood will be openly involved. The current popular front runner is Mohammed Elbaradei, a leading Egyptian democracy advocate, with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

It is undeniable that the Muslim Brotherhood will have a significant impact on the future of Egypt and the region. Possible issues arising will be control of the Suez Canal which will have a direct impact on oil shipments from the region to Houston and other refinery locations. As long as oil production maintains current levels and shipping is not impeded, there will be no visible impact. Should the canal access be restricted, oil prices could dramatically increase, especially if there with the potential of armed tension or conflict.

The Egyptian consulate would again, become a logical point of protest. Tensions within the local Egyptian community will reflect that of their homeland. Local protagonists with no ties to Egypt will only increase the local potential for conflict.

It should be expected that any action by Israel will have a serious impact locally in the form of protests, in and around the Galleria area and Israeli consulate, traditional location of such protests. Again, local protagonists with no direct ties will likely contribute to tensions. We could see violence which has in recent history, been virtually non-existent at such rallies/protests.

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