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Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Feb. 22, Unity Day; May 1, Labor Day; June 18, Evacuation Day; July 23, Revolution Day (National Day); Oct. 6, Armed Forces Day; and Oct. 24, Suez Day.

The following Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon, are observed: Moulded el Nabi (Birth of the Prophet); Sham El Nessim (Spring Holiday); Ramadan Bairam (End of Ramadan); Courban Bairam (Pilgrimage Feast); and Islamic New Year.

General

Egypt is located in Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip.

The climate is arid with hot, dry summers and moderate winters.

The terrain is a vast desert plateau by the Nile valley and delta.

The Suez Canal is described in Pub. 172, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Egyptian pound, consisting of 100 piastres.

Government

Egypt is a republic. The capital is Cairo.

Industries

The main industries are textiles, food processing, tourism, chemicals, petroleum, construction, cement, and metals.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. English and French are widely understood.

Regulations

Entry permission must be requested from the Egyptian authorities 48 hours prior to arrival. ETA should be confirmed at least 24 hours in advance, giving position, course and speed.

Vessels approaching the Egyptian coast should keep at least 12 miles off during daylight hours and at least 24 miles off at night. Port authorities must be contacted by radio when within 24 miles of the coast in order to receive entry instructions.

The normal international courtesies, such as flying the flag of Egypt at the foremast, should be carefully adhered to while in the waters and ports of Egypt.

U.S. Navy ships will comply with U.S. Navy Regulations and/or appropriate instructions.

Signals

A naval surveillance tower standing on the W breakwater is used for securing Bur Said and challenging approaching warships and suspicious merchant ships. Only visual signals in plain language are used (English-Arabic) and international signals. The call sign is SSL 2.

All ships are to exercise caution when approaching the area. Egypt uses its own storm signals in addition to some of the

International Storm Signals. Two black cones, bases together, indicate that a hurricane is expected from any direction.

A rectangular white flag with two anchors crossed in yellow by day and four red lights arranged vertically at night signify very heavy seas and that pilots cannot leave the harbor.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is BRAVO (-2).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at (North Gate) 8, Kamel El-Din Salah Street, Garden City, Cario. The mailing address is Unit 64900, APO AE 09839-4900.