EGYPT MAPS ACTION TO COUNTER BRITISH
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jan 24, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
pg. 5

EGYPT MAPS ACTION TO COUNTER BRITISH

Interior Minister Says Canal Zone Issue Is Now Beyond 'Mere Protestation' Phase

CAIRO, Jan. 23 (AP)—Egypt's Interior Minister denounced tonight a British search set off in Ismailia by the slaying of a United States nun and declared that Suez Canal zone matters had gone beyond the stage of "mere protestations."

The Minister, Fuad Serag el-Din Pasha, did not say what the next stage would be, but reported that "the Egyptian Government has had this subject under discussion for two days."

Asked by a reporter whether Egypt was considering using her army to guard Egyptians in the canal zone, he said:

"This is a matter left to the discretion of the Cabinet. I am not in a position to talk about that."

Serag el-Din Pasha said at a news conference that the British had committed "outrageous aggressions" in the house-to-house search for hidden arms since Sister Anthony, 52-year-old Roman Catholic nun, was shot through the heart Saturday.

Serag el-Din Pasha said he had lodged a protest with Lieut. Gen. Sir George Erskine, the British commander, "demanding an immediate cessation," but that the general had replied that the steps were necessary to protect his forces and insure the safety of nationals of friendly states.

The Minister declared that the British had "flogged Egyptian civilians, unleashed wild dogs on them, evicted them from their homes" and desecrated a mosque and a cemetery.

The Minister said the British troops had forced the Egyptians from their homes "without the slightest regard for the women, who were thrown out in the streets half dressed." He charged that some Egyptians were kidnaped "and nothing has been heard from them since."

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced a move to counter Britain's request for naval assistance from the United States, France, Norway and the Netherlands in Suez Canal operations.

It made public a note delivered Saturday to diplomats of the four powers warning that such assistance would be regarded as "an unfriendly act and even a direct participation in British aggression in the canal zone."

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.