Atmosphere Hardening
Dispatch of The Times, London
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ISMAILIA, Egypt, Jan. 24—The Egyptian Government's implied threat to oppose British troops by force, coupled with yesterday's statements by Fuad Serag el-Din Pasha, the Interior Minister in Cairo, has led to a change in atmosphere in the Suez Canal zone.

It seems unlikely that the Egyptian army will be foolhardy enough to rush into action but the British authorities are taking action to insure that the British forces won't be taken by surprise by any Egyptian move.

In Ismailia, for example, the right flank of the Third Infantry Brigade, which is controlling the town, was strengthened today to contain a small contingent of the Egyptian army at the eastern end of the town.

This afternoon a Bofors 40 mm. gun and a heavy machine gun were trained on the Government Building which also contains Egyptian Police Headquarters. A second Bofors gun was stationed at the Suez bridge over the Sweetwater Canal. Along the canal banks British infantrymen were digging in.

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