BRITISH SEE HOPE IN EGYPTIAN SHIFT
By CLIFTON DANIELSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jan 28, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
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Change in Regime Comes as London Takes Precautions Against Further Damage

By CLIFTON DANIEL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Jan. 27 — An unexpected break, the change in Government, occurred in the tense situation in Egypt tonight as British authorities were taking precautions against more bloodshed and destruction there.

News of King Farouk's dismissal of Premier Mustafa Nahas Pasha and his appointment of Aly Maher Pasha reached London too late for any official comment, but it was manifestly an important and potentially revolutionary development.

It was the first major change in the course of events that started with Egypt's denunciation of her treaty with Britain in October and seemed to be leading inexorably to open warfare between Egypt and the British forces in the Suez Canal zone.

Without knowledge of the new Government's intentions, there was no way of knowing whether the change meant an improvement in the chances for a peaceable settlement of the treaty dispute, but it raised hopes here.

Maher Pasha said tonight that he would strive to achieve Egypt's aspirations—which include evacuation of British forces from the Suez Canal zone and the unity of Egypt and the Sudan—but no Egyptian politician dare say less.

What Britain waits to see is whether the new Premier will pursue those aims by negotiation or by force, within the framework of friendship with the West or not.

At least Maher Pasha has not been in the forefront of the cam-

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paign against the British, is not committed to Nahas Pasha's tactics and can make changes in policy, if he is so disposed and public opinion will allow him.

At first glance it seemed that King Farouk, alarmed by the disorder and chaos produced by Nahas Pasha's policy, had taken authority into his own hands, with Maher Pasha as his nominee at the Presidency.

Under the terms of the Constitution the King personally can appoint and dismiss Premiers, and he did so. It was expected in Cairo that Maher Pasha would dissolve Parliament, in which he has no considerable following, and rule under martial law proclaimed yesterday by the King.

If King Farouk has taken control of the situation, it will be regarded here as a favorable sign. The British have always thought that while the King had his share of nationalist feelings and personal ambitions, he wanted for his country the protection of an alliance with the West and the security of internal law and order. This week Egypt seemed well on the way to losing both.

King Farouk first manifested his doubts about the wisdom of Nahas Pasha's policy when he recently appointed two men with pro-British reputations as his advisers. Dr. Hafez Afifi Pasha, an advocate of an alliance with the Western powers, was named chief of the Royal Cabinet, and Abdel Fattah Amr Pasha, recalled from his post as Ambassador in London, was made Foreign Affairs Adviser. Both appointments displeased Nahas Pasha's Wafd party Government.

Bad Feeling Between the Two

Now the King has broken with Nahas Pasha, dismissing him for the third time. There has been bad feeling between them almost as long as King Farouk has been on the throne, but their feud had been in abeyance for two years until today.

It remains to be seen whether the King and Maher Pasha are strong enough to stem the tide of nationalist passion unloosed by Nahas Pasha and to rule without the Wafd, which is the only mass party in the country and which has an overwhelming majority in Parliament. Maher Pasha is regarded as an intelligent man with some sense of Egypt's needs, but he is only one of many independent politicians with no popular following and no major party support.

Before hearing of Maher Pasha's appointment, the British authorities were taking precautions to meet what seemed to be an increasingly menacing situation in Egypt.

Preparations were being made for the first evacuation of civilians from Egypt's capital, where at least three Britons were killed by rioters yesterday. Two transport planes were sent to Cyprus to evacuate British Overseas Airways executives and ground staff and their families from Cairo if necessary. All B. O. A. C. stewardesses have already left Cairo.

A B. O. A. C. spokesman said that the planes on Cyprus also would "be available for other requirements," presumably ferrying refugees or troops.

Meanwhile the British air line and Air India International have both rearranged their flying schedules so that planes that normally pass through Cairo would touch down elsewhere.

Obviously taking the Egyptian situation very seriously, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Britain's Deputy Prime Minister, went to work at the Foreign Office today.

Churchill Is Kept Informed

A dispatch from the liner Queen Mary, on which Prime Minister Churchill was returning from the United States, said that the Cabinet chief also was keeping himself fully posted on developments in Egypt.

Among Mr. Eden's visitors today were the Chiefs of Staff of the British armed services. They presumably reported on the military dispositions being made to meet the worsened situation, and discussed its dangers with Mr. Eden.

Elements of two battalions of crack British guardsmen were sailing from Cyprus for the Suez Canal zone this afternoon, and eight Royal Air Force transport planes were waiting on the island to take other reinforcements.

Another of Mr. Eden's visitors was United States Ambassador Walter S. Gifford, who returned from Washington yesterday and called for an exchange of views and information.

Some concern has been felt here about the attitude of the United States, which is reported to be counselling moderation in London and Cairo. While the British do not expect active assistance from the United States in resisting Egyptian efforts to drive them out of their Canal Zone bases, they do expect complete moral support. They hope that the United States will not undermine Britain's position by appearing neutral or lukewarm.

It is obvious that the British Government and public have no taste for the fighting in Egypt, and they are appalled by the possible consequenees of a situation that is described today as being "very near open war."

Yet there is no noticeable slackening of Britain's determination to enforce her treaty rights in Egypt and maintain the bases on the Suez Canal, which are considered essential for the Allied defense of the Middle East.

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