They played with fire and saw on Saturday that the flames would consume them next. If the Wafdists are wise now they will play the role of "His Majesty's Loyal Opposition."

One other factor should not be overlooked—the conciliatory and restraining role that American Ambassador Jefferson Caffery played in this crisis. His fair-mindedness and personal influence must have contributed greatly to the outcome. This is another example of how valuable it is to have a trained career diplomat in a hot spot.

NEW HOPE IN EGYPT

A wave of hope has been spreading from Egypt around the free world since the news was flashed that King Farouk had dismissed Nahas Pasha and installed a new Government. Premier Aly Maher Pasha has already won a unanimous vote of confidence in Parliament and has the assurance—for the present—of the Wafd party's support. This was vital, since the Wafd is the only real mass party in Egypt and it has a large majority in the Chamber of Deputies. It was the Wafdists who brought Egypt and themselves to the tragic climax of Saturday's rioting in Cairo.

At least one can breathe somewhat more freely today. The situation had frozen into a brittle and dangerous pattern whose end could only have been disaster for Egypt and the West. What has happened now, thanks to the courage and good sense of the King, is the breaking of that pattern, thus opening the way to new negotiations and a compromise that will be fair to all concerned. Therefore it is imperative that every element involved—the opposition in Egypt, the new Government, the British, the Americans (in so far as their advice can be useful) — should make a fresh, conciliatory approach toward a solution of the conflict.

No one expects the new Government to be any less insistent on what Premier Maher Pasha calls "the unity of the Nile Valley" and the evacuation of the Suez Canal by the British. To take any other line would be to court political suicide and perhaps revolution. Nationalist fervor is a genuine sentiment in Egypt and so is hatred of the British. These facts have to be recognized, however much they may be deplored. Nevertheless, a way out was being sought before Nahas Pasha foolishly and cynically moved on Oct. 8 to abrogate the treaties with Britain and to drive the British out. He did this knowing that a proposal to internationalize the defense of the Suez Canal under Egyptian sovereignty was on the way to him. The Middle East Command offers such an honorable and sensible way out of the Suez Canal dispute that one must hope it will materialize in some form.

The Sudan, although it has figured much less in the news, is a far knottier problem to untie. In fact, Britain and Egypt, years ago, while Ernest Bevin was still Foreign Secretary, had reached an accord over the Suez Canal. The Sudan was the real stumbling-block. According to the Egyptians, a condominium that is trying, under British auspices, to lead the Sudanese to self-determination and autonomy in the next year or two is "imperialism," but forceful domination by Egypt of the Sudan is "independence"! As a matter of fact, various formulas for a solution—including the Egyptian suggestion of a plebiscite—have been put forward and with some of the goodwill that was lacking under Nahas Pasha an answer ought to be found.

The Cairo rioting was a horrible business, but at least it seems to have taught the Wafdists and the whole wealthy ruling clique in Egypt a salutary lesson. As we see now, it was a well-organized uprising, not a spontaneous, emotional mob outburst. The relatively few dead, most of them accidental, the concentration on selected alien targets in the heart of Cairo, the lack of looting, the discipline of the ringleaders, all pointed to a revolutionary plot. This also explains how order could be restored so quickly and easily.

And who would have been the next victims after the Westerners? Who but Nahas Pasha and his feudal class!

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