British See Hopeful Sign
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LONDON, Jan. 30—The British will take as a hopeful sign the reported statement tonight by the new Egyptian Premier. Aly Maher Pasha's statement to a reporter that he was ready to consider any proposal for an understanding seemed to be a sign of that willingness to negotiate that the British have been waiting for.

The impression here is that the British at the moment do not have any concrete proposals ready, although they have been thinking about the problem and could present something in reasonable time after consultation with their three Allies in the proposed Middle East Command.

In the House of Commons today Prime Minister Churchill again declared his conviction that the troubles in the Near East could best be settled on an international basis and expressed the view that the defense of the Suez Canal should not be exclusively a British responsibility. But he asserted that there was no question of a bargain to gain United States support in Egypt for British support in the Far East. Each problem must be dealt with on its merits, he acknowledged.

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