Clashes in Egypt
HUSSEIN K. SELIM,
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Letters to The Times

Clashes in Egypt

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Allow me to differ strongly with your editorial of Jan. 26 on "Tragedy at Ismailia." You imply that the present trouble in Egypt concerns the safety of shipping in the canal. Since Egypt never threatened traffic in this international highway, this implication, also referred to in Mr. Churchill's speech before Congress, is without foundation.

The only cause of the present clashes in Egypt is Britain's insistence on keeping her forces in the canal zone, presumably for its defense against Russia. Hence the suggestion to create the four-Power Middle East Command and to have the forces of four Powers instead of only one stationed in Egypt. Seeing that British troops are now training their long-range guns against Egyptian civilians and police forces, while French forces are doing the same in Tunis, how can Egypt be expected to accept such a proposal?

Your editorial speaks of the need for giving Egypt economic and technical help from the Western World. What is more urgently needed is just and fair dealing and the realization that she has a right to be free and independent; to try to bring Egypt by force into the Western plan of defense is the surest way of driving her against her will into the opposite camp.

HUSSEIN K. SELIM,
Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Fuad University, Cairo.

Washington, Jan. 26, 1952.

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