NEW CAIRO PREMIER READY TO CONSIDER A BRITISH PEACE BID
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pg. 1

NEW CAIRO PREMIER READY TO CONSIDER A BRITISH PEACE BID

Maher Pasha Also Indicates Willingness to Participate in Mid-East Command

LONDON IN HOPEFUL MOOD

Changed Egyptian Attitude Is Hailed — Home Fleet Is Going to Mediterranean

By Reuters.

CAIRO, Jan. 30—Premier Aly Maher Pasha said today he was ready to listen to any peace move that Britain would make.

"We are ready to consider any understanding Mr. Eden might propose," the new Premier declared.

He was commenting to reporters on Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden's statement in the House of Commons in London yesterday that Britain still wanted an agreement with Egypt that would respect the Egyptian point of view.

Maher Pasha's statement came soon after the British Ambassador, Sir Ralph Stevenson, had called on King Farouk amid mounting rumors of an early truce in the four-month-old rift between the two countries.

It was the Ambassador's first visit with King Farouk since Oct. 9 —the day after Egypt renounced her 1936 treaty with Britain and moved to oust the British from the Suez Canal Zone.

Maher Pasha, formerly chief of King Farouk's Royal Cabinet, was appointed Premier on Sunday night after the King had dismissed Mustafa Nahas Pasha, Wafdist party leader, for failing to maintain order.

Earlier today the new Premier received the envoys of the four Western powers that are proposing a Middle East defense pact—the United States, Britain, France and Turkey.

Briton Welcomes Change

A British spokesman said tonight that the government of Maher Pasha was a welcome change "by the very reason of its outlook."

"We feel that the Maher Cabinet is anxious to maintain peace and tranquillity throughout the country," he said.

Earlier today the new Premier called in a London newspaper correspondent for an interview as "a gesture of friendship with Britain."

The reporter quoted the Premier as saying that one of Egypt's conditions for a settlement with Britain would be the setting up of a Middle East defense command within the framework of the United Nations.

Referring to this statement, the British spokesman said, "Britain, together with the United States, France and Turkey has maintained all along that the proposed four-power defense scheme was consistent with the United Nations which acknowledged the right of countries to organize their own defense on a regional basis."

The British Ambassador denied that there was any significance to his meeting with the Premier, which he termed "a courtesy visit." United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery told reporters that the talk was "very agreeable and interesting."

Shots Heard in Capital

There were these other developments tonight:

¶ A volley of shots rang out from the center of Cairo shortly after the 9 P. M. curfew. No details were immediately available but it was thought that probably Egyptian soldiers and police, armed with Sten guns, patrolling the city streets, had fired at curfew breakers.

¶ The Ministry of the Interior announced a number of transfers, promotions and demotions among senior police and public security officials.

¶ King Farouk received in audience Naguib el-Rawi Bey, Iraqi Minister here, who was understood to have handed him a note from the Regent of Iraq, Emir Abdul Illah. The note was believed to concern Iraqi Premier Nuri es-Said Pasha's offer of good offices for negotiating a settlement of the British-Egyptian dispute.

¶ In a broadcast, Interior Minister Ahmed Murtada el-Marashi warned that any potential troublemaker would be dealt with at once by the army and police. He appealed to people to resume their normal lives under the protection of the law. He assured the public that "the situation is perfectly calm throughout Egypt and the Government has full control of it."

Reports of arson and political assassinations have spread through

Continued on Page 8, Column 3

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NEW CAIRO LEADER IN PEACE GESTURE

Continued From Page 1

Cairo and Alexandria in the past twenty-four hours but Ibrahim Imam Bey, Cairo city police deputy commandant, tonight categorically denied them.

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