WEST IS DISTURBED BY EGYPT'S STAND
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Observers Doubt Cairo Plans Any Serious Step to Join Middle East Defense Pact

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Feb. 26—Egyptian political circles appeared today to be squarely behind Premier Aly Maher Pasha, who said yesterday he would insist that the British discuss the ways and means of evacuating their troops from the Suez Canal area and unity of the Nile Valley instead of merely the principle of evacuation.

At the same time Western diplomatic representatives appeared disconcerted over the Premier's remarks, made in connection with the start of the conversations with the British Ambassador Saturday. Western observers said the two principals appeared to be as far apart as ever.

The atmosphere in the Western embassies was in marked contrast to the optimism apparent some time ago. There appeared to be doubt that the Egyptian team preparing the proposals Egypt would make to Britain was making any very serious effort to work out a Middle East defense project that from the Western standpoint would assure much strength in this part of the world.

The press carried reports regarding a project for remodeling the Arab Collective Security Pact so that it would become a regional collective security pact of the type recognized by the United Nations in other cases.

The central idea was that the Middle Eastern states that joined should be responsible for their own defense rather than depend on an alliance with the major Western powers or the Atlantic Pact powers.

In a significant comment the newspaper, Al Misry, chief organ of the Wafd party of former Premier Mustafa Nahas Pasha, which holds a majority of both houses of parliament, said:

"Egyptian military experts are reported to have expressed certain views on the extent of importance of the Arab Collective Security Pact in the solution of Middle East problems. According to those experts the threat of war for which the Atlantic and Pacific pacts were created exists in the Soviet Union to the borders of Iran, the Caucasus and the Balkans.

'In the event of war these areas will be centers of Communist communications, whose anticipated routes will be through Turkey, Iraq and Syria. Communist attack may be launched through Iran or Iraq, from which it will head toward warm water areas, the oil source in Arabia, the Indian Ocean Coast and the Red Sea. "The proposed Middle East command under the control of Turkey, France, Britain and America will not therefore serve to insure the defense of the Middle East but rather to safeguard the imperialist interests of the four powers in question. The best means would be for the eastern countries to defend themselves out of their free will and without external pressure."

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