Signs Held Encouraging
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Feb 3, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
pg. 9

Signs Held Encouraging
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Feb. 2 — Commenting upon reports that Egyptian Premier Aly Maher Pasha had sought new talks with London in the hope of ending British-Egyptian tension, a British Embassy spokesman tonight recapitulated the British Government's position, saying that the "return to normal security conditions in the canal zone is an absolute prerequisite to the resumption of conversations between the two Governments.

The Premier and Military Governor of Cairo stated that the Government would guarantee the safety, freedom and property of foreign residents, while the Finance Minister said that foreign holdings were secure.

Egyptian sources revealed that the head of the royal political bureau, Hafez Afifi Pasha, had received the British Ambassador, Sir Ralph Stevenson.

Observers here were inclined to view the apparent diminution of breaches of the peace as encouraging and possibly signaling an effort by the new Government to help create an atmosphere in which Britain and Egypt could compose at least their minor differences as a prelude to a broad understanding.

Another encouraging sign is the cessation of the vilification campaign in the press against the British, which the Ministry of Interior in the last Government had fanned upon every occasion and given out nightly for publication long catalogues of alleged British atrocities.

Steps Held Necessary

At the same time there remains a list of steps that, if taken, might contribute more to the restoration of a peaceful atmosphere. That list includes enforcement of the existing regulation on civilians' carrying of arms, a resumption of consultations actually in the Canal Zone between British Army and Egyptian officials, and the withdrawal of the secret police and the auxiliary police from Port Said and Suez.

Meanwhile the Premier appeared to be running into difficulties in his formation of a "national front," or committee, made up of all-party representatives to act in an advisory capacity outside the Government.

Some who had been invited to join and who yesterday were ageeable to participation, showed hesitancy today. Some observers thought that this attitude reflected Wafdist influence.

The Wafdists, who were discharged from office last Saturday by royal decree because the widespread rioting and destruction in Cairo had showed them to be incapable of maintaining order, remain the nation's most influential political party.

Resentment seems to have followed their humiliation at having been dismissed and while they have given lip service to the new Government they do not seem too eager for the new Government to succeed.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.