CAIRO HELD READY TO LISTEN TO BID ON MID-EAST PACT
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times 1857; Feb 4, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2003)
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CAIRO HELD READY TO LISTEN TO BID ON MID-EAST PACT

British Hear Acceptance Rests on Troop Exit at Suez and Concession on Farouk Title

PLAN FOR TALKS REPORTED

But Foes of Proposal Put Hope in Hesitation by London— No New Disturbances

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Feb. 3—The Cairo rioting of Jan. 26 has presented to Britain and the United States a wholly unexpected opportunity to bring back to life the proposed Middle East Command alliance.

The British Government is being warned by its representatives on the spot and other friends that this is no moment to hesitate. There is an outside chance, but a good one, that the present Egyptian Government or a broader coalition and the overwhelming Wafd party majority in both Houses of Parliament are prepared to enter a Middle East Command and to maintain the Suez Canal base as a Middle East Command base.

London has been informed, however, that this can be accomplished only if the British garrison leaves the Suez base and if King Farouk is recognized as the King of the Sudan.

Arabs Reported Willing

The Governments of other Arab states, according to information given to Western powers' representatives in various capitals, are prepared to enter an alliance with the West immediately on the basis of a Middle East Command organization when Egypt accepts the West's offer. Information received here on the British Foreign Office attitude is not too encouraging from the viewpoint of those who have informed London directly or indirectly that close to a miraculous opportunity has occurred to make good the rebuff given the Middle East Command proposals when they were presented in October under conditions that made their rejection virtually inevitable.

Indications that the London Foreign Office will turn up with a policy of too little and too late were in part attributed to the attitude of the British military command, which is said to have no true idea of the political and psychological situation.

The great opponent of an alliance with the West in any form, Salah el-Din Pasha, Foreign Minister of the Wafdist Cabinet, lost his post a week ago, and his immediate associates are believed to be depending on the British aversion for breaking suddenly with the past to save them from political

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CAIRO HELD READY TO SCAN PACT BID

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defeat. The fact is known here that other Wafd leaders had agreed in informal discussions to accept the Middle East command proposals if the Suez British garrison left and the powers recognized King Farouk as King of the Sudan.

Parley Plan Reported

There are reports current among the British here of a proposal for a Cairo conference of the four Middle East Command sponsor powers—Britain, the United States, France and Turkey—with Egypt and perhaps representatives of the Arab states.

Premier Aly Maher Pasha ordered the curfew to begin at 10 o'clock tonight instead of 9 P. M., the hour decreed when martial law went into effect a week ago. From this it was inferred that officials have considered that the security situation was appreciably improved.

No disturbance has been reported from the Canal Zone during the last twenty-four hours.

Meanwhile the public's attention has been drawn to an explanation of the signs scratched, chalked or painted on the doors of homes and apartments during the last week. The signs were widely interpreted as threats of coming violence upon the premises. According to the municipality of Cairo, in a communiqué published today, the signs have no other significance than that members of the city's health service had registered their calls while conducting a census in connection with the current drive against smallpox.

After security the Government's main concern appears to be a reduction of high living costs. A small drop in the prices of sugar and kerosene was announced today. According to the local press, steps are being taken to increase the supply of cooking oil and fats. A special committee will consider ways of breaking the black market traffic in a number of commodities.

Dr. Zaky Abdul Mutaal, Minister of Finance, is credited with drastic plans to lower Government expenditure which now is alleged to have exceeded all bounds during the period of Wafd ascendancy.

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