EGYPT TO CONTROL 'VOLUNTEER' FORCES
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War-Navy Ministry Will Train Groups That, as Guerrillas, Have Attacked British

CAIRO, Feb. 9 (AP)—Premier Aly Maher Pasha said tonight that the military training of Egyptian "volunteers" would be taken over by the War and Navy Ministry.

[The statement, which passed through strict Egyptian martial law censorship, The Associated Press noted, indicated the two-week-old Maher Government had cracked down on guerrilla—the so-called volunteer—and mob elements that harassed the British in the Suez Canal Zone and took part in the anti-foreign riots in Cairo, Jan. 26.]

Maher Pasha told reporters the volunteers, after training, would be put in a Territorial Army, an auxiliary of the Regular Army.

Sources close to the Government said the announcement concerned the Liberation Battalions [the guerrillas accused by the British in the canal zone attacks].

The battalions were formed by various nationalistic, political and other groups after Egypt tore up her treaty with Britain last October and demanded that British forces get out of Egypt.

Since Maher Pasha's Government took over from the Wafd party Government of former Premier Mustafa Nahas Pasha, guerrilla activity in the canal zone has come to a virtual standstill. The Nahas Government had previously announced intentions to take over the battalions but was resisted by their leaders.

The main battalions were formed under the Egyptian Socialist party, the Moslem Brotherhood and the leadership of Gen. Aziz el Masri Pasha, former Egyptian Army Chief of Staff.

Egypt's canal zone civil chief conferred during the day with Lieut. Gen. Sir George Erskine, British military commander in the zone. Interior Minister Ahmed Mortada el Maraghi announced the meeting between General Erskine and Abdel Hadi Ghazali Bey, Governor of Port Said and Ismailia, at an undisclosed place in the zone.

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