Settling Egypt's Unrest
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pg. 24

Letters to The Times

Settling Egypt's Unrest

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Several pertinent things that needed to be said were passed over by your correspondent Hussein K. Selim when writing his letter, "Clashes in Egypt," published Jan. 31.

It is impossible not to take note of the fact that the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, which ended further intervention by Britain in the Government of Egypt, conceded Britain's right to keep her troops there till 1956.

A little history was made also in 1948. In this year the British moved their soldiers from Cairo to positions near the Suez Canal. Indeed, they might have removed them altogether had there been agreement between the Governments on the question of self-government for or Egyptian sovereignty over the Sudanese. It was on this matter that the negotiations on evacuation altogether broke down.

There are practical Egyptians who know perfectly well that the safety of the vital waterway of the Suez Canal is an international concern, and one beyond the ability of the Egyptians themselves to guarantee. There is particular point to this, as unity as to what has to be done is lacking. There are those who would arm the Egyptian Army to defend Egypt, and there are those who would not, feeling that to do so would make impossible Egypt's neutrality should a future war come.

A better treaty with the British, who, despite the clashes, the controversy and the Communists, are liked in Egypt rather than disliked, will, in all probability, provide the way out eventually. Regard for Egypt's own interest will bring this about.

GEORGE H. GLADWELL.

New York, Feb. 1, 1952.

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