PROGRESS IN EGYPT
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pg. 28

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It was encouraging to hear Premier Aly Maher Pasha talk reasonably in a broadcast to the United States on Sunday about a regional Middle Eastern pact for collective security. This is what we in the West are all hoping for, and it is a welcome change to hear the subject discussed without passion and on its merits.

Generally speaking, the news from Egypt has been good since the disastrous Cairo riots of Jan. 26. With King Farouk working quietly and effectively behind the scenes, Maher Pasha restored calm and is permitting emotions to cool. There is nothing that Egypt needs at the moment so badly as peace and quiet. The previous, unsavory Wafd Government poisoned the body politic, and the effects must gradually be allowed to wear off. At the same time too long a delay could be dangerous. Egyptian Governments have a habit of coming in with fresh, new brooms and then getting quickly stuck in the mud of politics and corruption. The new Premier and his supporters must be encouraged, and the British can help in that direction—as they seem to be doing under Foreign Secretary Eden's experienced direction.

The problem now is not to indulge in talks accompanied by the fanfare of publicity but to lay the basis quietly for formal negotiations that can be expected to achieve some progress. The British and Egyptians have had all too many conferences that started with hopes and ended in the bitterness of disappointment and recriminations. An opportunity for an agreement has now presented itself. It will need all the skill, patience and diplomacy that both sides can muster to reach a final settlement satisfactory to Egypt and the West, whom Britain represents in this conflict—at least so far as the Suez Canal is concerned. No one should underestimate the extreme difficulties of the problems to be solved. It must be kept in mind, too, that the Egyptian demands for sovereignty over the Sudan cannot be separated from the Suez Canal dispute.

However, for the moment one can be thankful that the situation has improved so greatly in the last three weeks and that there is reason to hope where before we despaired.

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