NO WESTERN TIES, ARAB STATES SAY
Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Apr 2, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002) pg. 8

NO WESTERN TIES, ARAB STATES SAY

Members of Cairo Conference Agree to Stay Aloof From Defense Pacts

Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, April 1—Representatives of eight Arab states were reported to have reassured one another today that their governments had no intention of joining Western-sponsored defense pacts or agreements for military aid.

These general disclaimers were entered in the course of the opening meeting of the political committee of the Arab League under the chairmanship of Dr. Mahmoud Fawzy, Egyptian Foreign Minister. Egypt, which has sought to maintain a solid Arab front against Western links until its own demands for the evacuation of British forces from the Suez Canal Zone have been satisfied, has been concerned over reports that Iraq was eyeing with interest the Turkish-Pakistani pact and United States arms aid.

A communiqué from the political committee declared that "the first problem discussed concerned rumors that certain Arab states would join the Turkish-Pakistani pact and sign agreements for military help from the United States." Representatives of all countries denied these rumors, the communiqué stated.

Sayed Naguib el Rawy, Iraqi representative in the League and ambassador to Egypt, repeated the assertion of Iraqi Premier Mohammed Fadhil al-Jamali that his country had neither been invited nor sought to join the pact.

So far as is known Ambassador el Rawy did not specify what his Government's action would be if an invitation were to be offered by Ankara and Karachi.

Concerning armaments, the statement continued, all delegations said their countries would seek arms and other material but would "not accept any responsibility undermining their sovereignty and independence or incompatible with their responsibilities as members of the Arab League." This, it was explained, meant that states could buy arms but could not accept them free with strings attached.

States represented at the meeting are Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

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