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Leaders Voice Lack of Faith in Caffery's Good Offices—Political Foes Assailed

By ROBERT C. DOTY
Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, April 13 — Egyptian leaders castigated their domestic and foreign enemies today and expressed doubts that the United States had the will or the ability to aid Egypt in her dispute with Britain over the Suez Canal zone.

The verbal offensive was opened by Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Deputy Premier and effective head of the Government, and Major Salah Salem, Minister of National Guidance and Sudan Affairs. Both men spoke at ceremonies for the distribution of titles to lands, seized from the former royal family, to peasants at the town of Faroukia in the Nile Delta. Colonel Nasser subsequently expressed disillusionment with the United States policy here in a press conference.

The high points of their statements were:

¶That United States policy worked in favor of Britain to help her maintain her position in Egypt and the Middle East.

¶That Egypt and the Arab peoples regarded United States Point Four Technical Assistance as a form of "American colonial penetration in the Middle East.

¶That there was no prospect of settlement of the dispute over the presence of British forces in the Canal Zone in the immediate future despite expressions of optimism by the United States Ambassador, Jefferson Caffery.

¶That, contrary to some reports, the ruling Revolution Command Council had not expressed a willingness to let Western forces reoccupy the Canal Zone automatically if Turkey were attacked after the evacuation of the present British garrison.

Political Foes Attacked

On domestic questions the two leaders attacked by name Mohammed Fuad Serag el-Din and Mohammed Salah el-Din, former leaders of the Wafd party; former Premier Aly Maher, who once collaborated with the military leaders, and the president and secretary general of the press syndicate.

An effort was made to present the political leaders as hypocritical defenders of the interests of landlords and capitalists and the journalists as men who took large sums of money from the leaders of the old royal parliamentary regime.

Colonel Nasser's statements on United States policy were the most outspoken criticism expressed by any responsible Egyptian leader. For the past twenty months he and other members of the military junta have entertained hopes that Mr. Caffery might use his good offices to obtain concessions from London on the terms for British withdrawal from the canal zone. They have frequently deferred to Mr. Caffery's views on various aspects of the problem.

The attitude expressed today seemed to suggest that the Egyptian leaders had reached the point of disillusionment with Mr. Caffery's efforts to obtain a settlement that would satisfy both the strategic interests of the West and Egyptian demands for full sovereignty in the canal zone.

Colonel Nasser said it was apparent that the British were unwilling to change their attitude toward Egypt sufficiently to make a settlement possible. The United States, he said, was interested principally in Europe and the Far East and continued to support the British position in the Middle East.

In the attack on Serag el-Din, Colonel Nasser disclosed that soon after the seizure of power by the military junta in July, 1952, he had approached Serag el-Din, then secretary general of Wafd, with an offer to turn the government over to the Wafd if it would limit land ownership and introduce an agrarian reform law.

Mr. Serag el-Din refused, Colonel Nasser told his audience of small cultivators, on the ground that such action would weaken the privileged class, essential to the control of the masses.

The regime then turned to Aly Maher, Colonel Nasser said, and made him Premier but ousted him when he, too, delayed action for land reform.

Mr. Salah el-Din, former Wafdist Foreign Minister, was characterized as a "snake in the grass" for his sponsorship of a resolution by the lawyers' syndicate demanding an immediate return to parliamentary government during the struggle last month between Colonel Nasser and Maj. Gen. Mohammed Naguib, Egypt's ailing President and Premier, who supported the plan for civilian rule.

Major Salem followed with charges that Hussein Abul Fath, president of the press syndicate and one of the owners of the Wafdist daily Al Misri, had received £2,000 from secret government funds and that Mustafa el Kashashi, secretary of the syndicate and owner of the weekly Al Sabah, had received £5,000.

Mr. Abul Fath later sent messages to General Naguib, Colonel Nasser and the newspapers challenging the regime to give details of his use of the money given him, which, he said, were no less important to Egypt's interests than the activities on which Major Salem spends money currently for Egyptian propaganda through the Ministry of National Guidance.

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