U. S. ENVOY LAUDS EGYPTIAN REGIME
By KENNETT LOVESpecial to The New York Times.
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Caffery Declares Country's Future Looks Brighter Than at Any Time in Past

By KENNETT LOVE
Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, Dec. 5—United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery said today Egypt's future "looked brighter" under her present military rulers than at any time in the past. He declared the people "believe that this regime really wants to do something for them."

Mr. Caffery, who will retire next month after forty-three years in foreign service, five and a half of them as Ambassador to Egypt, expressed these opinions in response to a request that he sum up the recent developments here that he considered the most significant.

He said the ten-man military junta headed by Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser that overthrew the monarchy two and a half years ago was "honest, sincere, progressive and intelligent and its goal is to raise the living standards of the Egyptian people."

People Have Faith in Regime

"Perhaps its main strength is to be found in the fact that the mass of the population believes that this regime really wants to do something for them," he went on. "Another factor is that, while the present Government has the same set of economic problems that have existed for centuries, a new spirit gives the Government a will and a vigor to overcome these problems. One can sense this new spirit among the Egyptian people today.

"The United States has been helping Egypt economically—first through technical assistance and more recently through the $43,000,000 economic development program. I think this aid is fully justified and the money well spent from the point of view of the American taxpayer.

"Egypt's main economic problem is that of bringing more water to more land so that its growing population can be fed. With this in mind the present Government is determined to construct a new high dam that will add at least one-third more land to the area now under cultivation [about 8,500,000 acres].

"The present Government's world position is reflected by its success in coming to an intelligent agreement with Britain on the question of [Suez] Canal Zone bases and its earlier agreement with Britain on allowing the

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Sudan determine its own future."

The veteran diplomat postponed his retirement in order to see through the British-Egyptian agreements on the Sudan, signed Feb. 12, 1953, and the Suez agreement signed last month. Observers here give him a large part of the credit for both agreements, for his behind the scenes activity in patching up quarrels between the two parties and obtaining concessions from each of them.

Well-informed political circles report that soon after Mr. Caffery bade farewell to ousted King Farouk at a pier in Alexandria Colonel Nasser met him and asked whether he was a friend of Farouk. When Mr. Caffery said he was, Colonel Nasser replied that Mr. Caffery was the first person he had encountered who was honest enough to say so an asked, "Will you now be a friend to us?" Mr. Caffery again said "yes."

Asked about his retirement plans, Mr. Caffery said he and his wife had not had a real vacation for fourteen years and that for several months "we will probably do nothing at all." He pointed to a file of requests for articles and said he would write them in due course and possibly a book as well. He and Mrs. Caffery will live at his ancestral home in Lafayette, La., he continued. "But, of course, I have always been a wanderer, and I don't think I will change."

Mr. Caffery's first piece of advice to aspiring diplomats was: "Don't just sit in the capital, but get to know the country and the people. One way is take an avocational interest in a subject such as the country's archaeology, customs or social services. In the old days it was enough to know the king and people at court, but that is not true any more."

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