Mr. Sulzberger Replies
C. L. SULZBERGER.
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Mr. Sulzberger Replies

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The point raised by my old friend, Brigadier Quilliam, in his letter of Nov. 23 is a valid one and I respect the way in which he has presented it.

The British did indeed introduce what I called "a leavening of social and industrial reforms" during their decades of rule in Egypt. But they were never able to solve the essential problem which I described in its simplest essential as "too little land for too many people." Perhaps Brigadier Quilliam phrases this better when he calls it the problem "of populations in predominantly agricultural countries growing faster than agricultural productivity."

I agree with Brigadier Quilliam that a British "attack on the system of agrarian land ownership" would have been desirable—despite the obvious difficulties involved. Only such a serious and fundamental approach to the problem might have managed to lift Egypt from the difficult position in which she now finds her social and economic system. I say this with no desire to have these remarks interpreted as carping criticism nor in an effort to denigrate the many fine things accomplished in Egypt under British rule. The trouble is these were insufficient.

C. L. SULZBERGER.

Paris, Nov. 30, 1954.

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