**Trial of Agents in Egypt**
ROGER BALDWIN,
*New York Times (1857-Current file);* Feb 26, 1955; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
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# Letters to The Times

or Copts. Nor in the spy trial was the distinction between Zionist and Jews convincingly maintained, in part certainly because of the confusion created by Zionists, as your correspondent points out.

But, whether considered as Zionists or Jews, the execution of two of the twelve on trial arouses justified indignation far beyond the Jewish community, because the attempted espionage and sabotage were childish and irrational, and the two men responsible for organizing the group escaped from Egypt.

The conclusion is inescapable that the executions were ordered for political reasons, despite prior private official assurances of leniency, presumably to buttress Egypt's position with the other more anti-Israel Arab states at a critical moment. The judgment of the military court which tried the twelve is unknown, since the sentences were announced only by the Government itself, a procedure unique in this case.

ROGER BALDWIN,
Chairman, the International League for the Rights of Man.
New York, Feb. 21, 1955.

## Trial of Agents in Egypt

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

As an international observer who was in Cairo recently when the Government had under consideration the sentences of the so-called Zionist spies may I take exception to the view expressed in your columns of Feb. 21 by Abdelmonem Shaker to the effect that no religious prejudice was involved?

The Government indeed emphasized that the trial was against Israeli agents, not Jews as such. It is quite true that the Jewish minority in Egypt enjoys as reasonably good a status as the Christian Copts. But it is also unhappily true that the tensions with Israel tend too readily to identify Jews with subversion or disloyalty, just as in Israel the Arabs tend to be more readily suspect.

While I was in Cairo the press reported the prosecution of seven Jews for connection with a foreign political party (presumably French since six of the seven are French Jews). The press reports identify them as Jews, which they would not have done had they been Moslems

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