

Egypt

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[EN CLAIR]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Lord Killearn.
No. 103 SAVING.
9th May, 1944.

D. By bag 9th May, 1944.

R. 1.35 p.m. 16th May, 1944.

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VERY CONFIDENTIAL.

Abboud Pasha called this morning. He came ostensibly about his prospective business visit to London. He was aware of the reasons entailing delay but hoped it would not be too long.

2. He then disclosed the real object of his visit to me. Nahas Pasha was most anxious that whilst in London the Pasha should on his behalf enlarge upon the difficulties of the Egyptian Government's present position and more especially the pernicious role being played by the Palace which was rendering the work of administration of the country, the whole Government machinery, difficult if not impossible to work.

3. Abboud Pasha had told Nahas Pasha he was willing to undertake this provided the British Ambassador saw no objection. He then proceeded at great length to enlarge upon the iniquities of the Palace and the lack of responsibility shown by King Farouk. It would be part of his secret mission to say all this whilst in London on behalf of Nahas Pasha.

4. I said that from my angle I saw no reason to prevent the Egyptian Prime Minister putting his case before London through any channels he deemed appropriate. Indeed, from my own angle, it seemed no bad thing that the case should reach London without necessarily having first gone through the sieve of the Embassy. Actually the Foreign Office knew most of the facts and considerations already; but repetition through a non-official business source might be found helpful at home. It was however essentially a matter the Egyptian Prime Minister must fix up for himself.

5. Abboud Pasha then referred to the recent crisis and the absurdity of the Palace proposals. Being a close personal friend of Ahmed Maher he could tell me that the latter had been aghast at the suggestion of a Hassanein Cabinet: the inclusion of such names as Amr Pasha could only be regarded as a bad joke and the levity with which King Farouk had provoked the whole crisis. Ahmed Maher much preferred the continuance of the present Ministry, manifest though many of its faults and shortcomings were.

6. Abboud Pasha made no special comment on the arrest of Makram Ebeid yesterday, save that the latter had asked for trouble and had got it. I gathered there was no sympathy for him from Ahmed Maher.