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 553/1/48G.  
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 E.M. Det &  
 letter  
 P.T.



SECRET.

Subject: Scandals of the Royal Family.

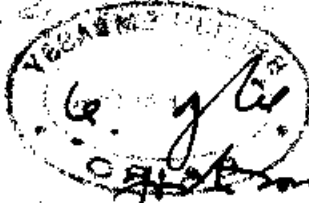
Under the heading "Who Are They", the Wafdist Arabic weekly "AL NIDA" of 20/1/48 published an item of special significance to the effect that an attractive young woman highly placed "as is indicated by her elegant expensive clothes and the many luxurious cars she used" was observed by the inhabitants of a certain district at Zamalek frequenting at night the flat of a young single man "of great fame, but occupying an imaginary Government post".

The paper's allusive way of description of the young man and woman clearly, but in a manner to escape punishment, indicates that it is referring to Empress Fawzia and Ismail Sherin.

*O. Man*

23/1/48. Two months ago I reported to O.S. & H. of C. that *Cherine* is supposed to be marrying the Empress. Since then I have had confirmation.

Ismail Cherine was a contemporary RTJ of mine at Cambridge. He accompanied the King & the Empress Fawzia on their Red Sea cruise some time ago. He is Press Liaison officer in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. His mother, Princess Amina Bahgat Fahd was killed in a car crash Waly last year. Abou 24/1



reunions  
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*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

Registry No. 553/1/482

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Draft letter H. of C. to Egyptian Dept., Foreign Office Telegram.

Despatched M.

TOP SECRET 3rd February, 1948

Dear Department,

For some time past rumours have been circulating that the Empress Fawzia would shortly be divorced and would re-marry. The Wafdist Arabic weekly "Al Nida" on 21st January published an article to the effect that a highly placed and attractive young woman "as is indicated by her elegant and expensive clothes and the many luxurious cars she uses" has been observed by the inhabitants of a certain district of Zamalek frequenting at night the flat of a single young man "of great fame and occupying an imaginary Government post." The allusion is said to be to the Empress and to a small Cherine Bey.

Ismail Cherine is a little under thirty, and was up at Magdalene College, Cambridge from 1936 to 1939. After a short time with the National Bank of Egypt he attended various international conferences and as a member of the Egyptian delegation and is now the Press Liaison Officer in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. He accompanied the King and Empress Fawzia on their Red Sea cruises in 1946 and was made a Bey in the same year. His mother was Princess Amina Bahrouz Fadel, who was killed in an air crash in Italy about a year ago.

Landale of the Pub. Sec. says he has confirmation of their intended marriage.

Yours ever, 1/6/48

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

H.K. ✓

H.M. ✓

H.E. ✓

He first heard these rumours about 2 months ago, and now

RFB 31/1

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Cont 2719  
H.A.

British Embassy,  
CAIRO.

25th September, 1948.

PERSONAL

TOP SECRET

553/2/492.

An Egyptian acquaintance in a position to know has told me in strictest confidence that a divorce has been arranged and will shortly take place between the Shah and Princess Fawzia, sister of the King of Egypt. As you know, the Princess has for some years been living in Egypt apart from her husband. A divorce has been in mind but was too delicate a subject to pursue openly. The Princess, said my informant, though young and good-looking and a decent sort of girl, is extremely apathetic about almost everything and can never make up her mind. The Persian Ambassador here, who used to be the Shah's tutor and who from time to time sees the King with whom he is on good terms, has always purported to assume that there would be a reconciliation. The other day when asked by the King what he thought of prospects in that direction he said he was hopeful that they might be bright, whereupon the King, who was sitting at a desk, opened a drawer and pulled out a letter which he showed to the Ambassador. It was from the Shah to the Princess agreeing to a divorce. My informant said that this letter was the third in a sequence. The first was from the Shah asking the Princess if she would be agreeable to return to him two rings which, said the Shah, he valued not for their intrinsic worth but for sentimental reasons. This letter the Princess rightly understood to be an enquiry whether she was in agreement with a divorce. She replied expressing willingness to return the rings and ending the letter with 'votre meilleure amie'. This the Shah in turn rightly understood to be agreement with the proposed divorce. Hence the Shah's latest letter.

My informant told me what has been court gossip for some time, that the Princess is going to marry one Ismail Cherine Bey, who is connected with the Royal Family through his mother, the late Princess Emineh Bahrouz Padel, and also through his sister, who married the younger son of the late Prince Omar Tousseoun. He is a presentable young man, of a fair-skinned Turkish type, and speaks English and French quite fluently. He has been for some time an official in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. He and the Princess have been seen together in public quite a lot lately. My informant said there is no doubt she would have been quite prepared to have married almost anyone thrust in her way and the King thrust Ismail Cherine.

Incidentally, Princess Fawzia throughout her marriage to the Shah has remained, while on Egyptian territory, an Egyptian princess in her own right. This was a condition of the marriage contract. Another interesting bit of information, though a matter of long-past history, which my informant gave me, was that the marriage of the Shah to Princess Fawzia was urged upon the King by his erstwhile evil counsellor, Ali Maher Pasha. The King never liked it very much but being at that time still in his teens, very inexperienced and completely in the hands of this adviser, had not the strength to resist. Ali Maher's policy at that time was directed towards the glorification of the Egyptian royal house with the possibility even of the King's acceptance by Moslem monarchs as Caliph of Islam.

I am sending a copy of this letter to ~~Mr~~ Ian le Rougetel.

(signed) E.A. Chapman-Andrews.

M.R. Wright, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Foreign Office.

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GMM

British Embassy,

No. 37(10.272/126/48)

TEHRAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

27th October, 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that it has recently been widely reported in the Tehran press that His Imperial Majesty the Shah has taken steps to obtain a divorce from Queen Fausiah. Although no official statement has been issued, it is reported that the Minister of Justice has executed the necessary documents to dissolve the civil marriage, and the Imam Jomeh of Tehran is said to have agreed to the divorce from the religious standpoint.

2. The Pers Agency reported on 16th October that the Egyptian Embassy here had denied these rumours, but they have persisted nevertheless. According to one report the act of divorce has already been signed by both the Shah and the Queen, and Her Majesty's jewellery and personal possessions have been handed over to the Egyptian Embassy. An official of the Egyptian Court, Rezaimeh Bey by name, is said to have arrived here in order to take the Queen's belongings back to Egypt. In an article on 22nd October, the hope was expressed that the Shah would marry again, this time to a Persian. The article went on to say that during the reign of Reza Shah the situation had made it necessary for a foreign bride to be found for the Crown Prince, but that now the situation was different. The name of the daughter of Monsieur Ali, Persian Ambassador in Washington, has been mentioned in this connexion. Some papers express regret at the impending divorce, but there is not much sympathy for Queen Fausiah who, by her prolonged absence, is considered to have shown her indifference to this country. No reference to the subject has, however, been made by the semi-official paper ETTELA'AT.

3. It has recently been reported that Monsieur Ali Dashti has accepted the post of Ambassador in Cairo in succession to Dr. Ghani. This appointment has been connected in the popular press with the Shah's divorce, and it is expected that Monsieur Dashti will go to Cairo as soon as the divorce has been announced.

4. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Ambassadors at Washington and Cairo and to the British Middle East Office, Cairo.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble servant.

(Sgd.) J.M. LE ROUQUETEL

The Right-honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.,  
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs,

The Foreign Office,  
London, W.2.1.

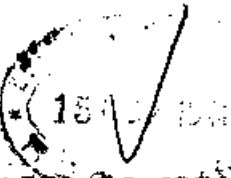
*Mr. H. H. H. H.*

*at Rasmdala*

*B. 12/11*



VERY CONFIDENTIAL



THE LAST QUEEN FARIDA GET DIVORCED

551/61486  
E. H. H. (man)

*12/11*

On November 10, Naguib Facha Salem, Director of Royal Estate, called on Queen Farida in her private apartments in Abdin Palace and gave her notice of divorce. He said that the king gives her one month time to look for suitable lodging. The king will take the two eldest daughters leaving the youngest, Shida, to her mother's care until she reaches the age of 9. He expects Farida to raise the girl well and give her a good education. Meanwhile he will pay the expenses of nurse and servants. Queen Farida thanked Naguib Facha for the trouble he took in communicating to her this bitter news and begged him to tell the king to take good care of the daughters so that they do not become prostitutes like their aunts.

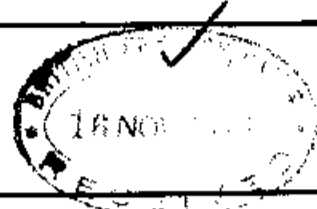
Foli Bey then arrived and asked her, in the name of the king, to hand over the crown and all jewellery presented to her on her wedding. She said that one brilliant is missing from the crown and will replace it. As to the jewellery they were presents which she is entitled to keep. But the king insisted and took both.

Farida asked Foli Bey to request the king to allow her a three-hour interview with him to which he agreed.

Farida owns 1,700 feddans in the Sharqia known as the Faridia Pefish. On her wedding she was presented by the king with the luxurious Faher Facha Palace in Sharqia Tuman Bey in Saray el Jubba. Now she has been advised that the property, which never passed to her in legal form, will become waqf in her favour and offering from Faruq.

Editor's note: The above has been communicated by Queen Farida personally to Princess Samiha Hussein, daughter of late Sultan Hussein, and wife of Wahid Facha Yusri.

P.S. Three years ago Queen Farida found in Faruq's bedroom a Turkish girl named Lily Sherin but the king was then in Fayum Auberge. Questioned about her presence there the girl said that she had an appointment with the king. Farida took her in her quarters and had her sign a confession then called the Public Prosecutor and the Police. It was a big scandal (of which I wrote in the time) and since then Faruq looked for the opportunity to get rid of his wife.



1040  
553/6/489.

From  
FOREIGN OFFICE  
[G.L. Clutton]  
12.11.48

EGYPT.  
ROYAL FAMILY  
**F.O.** / 141 / 1303

Last Paper.

References.

I should not have thought that King Farouk would seriously contemplate a shooting trip in Kenya at this crisis in his country's fortunes. After a period of aloofness from political affairs during the summer, he now shows signs of taking the helm again in order to steer his Government on a new course towards co-operation and understanding with us. If he intends to see this thing through, as reports indicate that he does, it is difficult to conceive that he would undertake a joyride outside the country, at least until the main objective is either achieved or once more laid aside sine die.

(Print)

I suppose there is just a possibility that if things got too hot for him in this country, H.M. might suddenly dash off to Kenya on the pretext of doing some shooting but that is a situation which is obviously outside Mr. Wendell Phillips' calculations and one which the Governor of Kenya would have to face up to willy-nilly, if it occurs. Incidentally, I remember hearing some time ago that H.M. was interested in purchasing an estate in Kenya and it occurred to me at the time that if this were true it might be a useful bolt-hole but I have heard no more about it. There is an Egyptian, whose name I forget, who has been moving around a good deal in Kenya and Uganda during the last two years or so but whether his activities have any connection with the rumour that King Farouk might purchase an estate in Kenya or not, I cannot say. Anyhow, this is largely irrelevant for the purpose of replying to Mr. Clutton and the Governor of Kenya about Mr. Wendell Phillips' project.

(How disposed of.)  
Letter to General, Nairobi  
Caption Clutton F.O  
23 x1

(Action completed.) <i>[Signature]</i>	(Index.) <i>[Signature]</i>
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*[Signature]*  
19th November, 1948.

Next Paper.

17

*[Handwritten note:]* Sir P Marshall doubts  
compt. his remarks w<sup>d</sup>  
in gratia

have sent Mr. Cohen!  
AA  
21/Nov

2  
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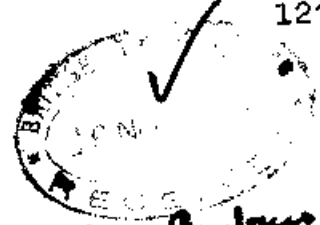


553/6/484  
Under Review



PERSONAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. *Ph*  
12th November, 1948. *14/11*



*My dear Ambassador,*

The Colonial Office have asked me to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter they have received from the Governor of Kenya about King Farouk's alleged wish to visit Kenya. It is, I think, self-explanatory.

I presume you will reply to Mitchell direct, but the Colonial Office would be interested to learn whether you consider the King is really making plans for such a trip. I would also like to know whether you feel able to attempt to enlighten him on the interests we have at stake in Palestine, for his views, if breezily expressed, appear to me a trifle wrong-headed.

*Yours ever*  
*Guy Clarke*

Sir Ronald Campbell, G.C.M.G., C.B.,  
H.M. Ambassador,  
Cairo.

PEM. 49/48.  
CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.

3rd November, 1948.

My dear Cohen,

*Handwritten: not done. ac*

I expect you know that a young American called Wendell Phillips, of California University, has been leader and organiser of the University's Expedition to East, Central and South Africa over the last eighteen months. He is rather a queer creature and I can't say that I like him very much, but however he has managed reasonably well. I believe he is in a good deal of trouble over the management of the Expedition in America, but that is neither here nor there.

In a recent letter to me he says that King Farouk might be interested in coming to East Africa in the near future for a hunting trip. He writes to me on this subject: "If this meets with your approval, and if he does come, I will probably take this opportunity to again visit Kenya and indulge in a little more hunting myself. I have mentioned this to you at this time strictly on a confidential basis, but knowing His Majesty in this matter over hunting, and my enthusiasm over Kenya and the great possibilities down here, I feel that His Majesty would enjoy this trip a great deal."

I know Wendell Phillips pretty well by now, and I guess that this means that he will now, on passing through Egypt, contact Farouk and tell him that I am most anxious that he should come here for a hunting trip. Needless to say, there are few things that I should like less, and I am sending you this letter in duplicate in order that you may pass a copy to Ronald Campbell through the Foreign Office. As I have no diplomatic bag with the Embassy, I thought it unwise to write direct to Campbell, and only a few days' delay will be caused by this letter going through you.

There is, ...

A. B. COHEN, ESQ., C.M.G., C.B.E.,  
COLONIAL OFFICE,  
LONDON, S. W. 1.

2.

There is, of course, no obstacle to Farouk's coming and shooting in these parts if he wants to, and we would look after him and see that he had an agreeable time. He would, however, be an unmitigated nuisance, and if he comes at the time when Government House is occupied by a school, accommodation would be a difficulty. I am bound to say if I were Farouk I should now buy a copy of the Life of King Alfonso XIII of Spain, and reflect on what happens to monarchs who engage in unnecessary wars and get a sound walloping. He may indeed be looking for somewhere in Kenya to live, but not only for hunting, if he doesn't pull his fingers out of Israeli affairs before long.

**P. E. MITCHELL.**

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553/6/483.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL.

23rd November, 1948.

(Dear Mitchell)

The Foreign Office have sent on to me a copy of your letter to Cohen at the Colonial Office of the 3rd November about the possibility of a visit to Kenya by King Farouk.

We should not have thought that the King would seriously contemplate a shooting trip outside the country at this juncture when he has both external and internal troubles on his hands. But one can never be sure, and I am grateful to you for letting me know what is, at any rate, in Wendell Phillips' mind.

Incidentally, we did hear some time ago that His Majesty was interested in purchasing an estate in Kenya. We have also heard there was an Egyptian, whose name is not recorded, who has been moving around a good deal in Kenya and Uganda during the last two years and who may or may not be connected with the King's interest. This is not relevant of course to the Wendell Phillips plan, but if you do hear anything of such a project we should of course be interested to know. You may wish to use the confidential military channel which I am using for this present letter.

Should the King come your way in the near future and should the conversation turn to the subject of Palestine, I think you will find that he has some grasp of the realities of the situation. As you say in your letter to Cohen, the Egyptian Army has had a walloping, severe enough to quicken anyone's sense of reality. But in the circumstances prevailing after May last I personally find it difficult to blame the Egyptians for what they did; they could scarcely have sat back and not moved at all, even if they had fully realised then their own military deficiencies.

Excuse these reflexions and thank you again for letting me know what Wendell Phillips has in mind.

(Yours sincerely  
Ronald Campbell)

His Excellency  
The Governor of Kenya,  
Nairobi.



1948 C

553/7/48G

From: OLD MAH.

Egypt. Royal Family

**F.O. / 141 / 1303**  
(Ministry)

Un Dated

Last Paper. 5

References. 553/3/48 w.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

With reference to my memorandum of 11th October in 553/3/48, the same informant told me two days ago that the report that Nabila Fatma Toussoun had actually married the Brazilian Count has now proved to be incorrect. This source now states that the Brazilian refused more or less at the last moment to become a Moslem and as Fatma did not want to risk losing her title as the result of marrying a non-Moslem their matrimonial plans broke down.

I cannot think that a marriage between King Farouk and Fatma would be a popular event but it is possible that the Egyptian public would become reconciled to it if she were eventually to bear him a son.

Perhaps we ought to correct the information given in our letter to Mr. Scott-Fox of 13th October in 553/3/48.

*[Signature]*  
18th November, 1948.

*[Handwritten initials]*

See draft L-8-46.  
*[Handwritten initials]*

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Next Paper. 8

~~Mr. Ramsdale~~ 16 Nov.

Mr. Ramsdale



WHO WILL BE THE NEW QUEEN OF EGYPT ?

Referring to my previous report on Queen Farida's divorce I must add now that the King delegated the Governor of Cairo, Fuad Pacha Sherin, to represent Egypt at the Municipalities Congress at Paris.

The real reason behind is to meet Nabila Fatma Sherin, widow of Nabil Sa'id Toussoun and daughter of Isma'il Bey Sherin brother of Fuad Pacha, and ask her to come back to Egypt at once and become new queen.

Fatma Sherin was Faruq's mistress once upon a time, and the first, but quarrelled with him and left for Paris to become the good friend of Don Juan, the pretender to Spain's throne. Faruq had sent her many messages asking her to return but she had always refused. But now that he divorced Farida he sent her Fuad Pacha to persuade her to marry him and become queen.

Nabila Sherin is a most beautiful woman.

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	ON F
	553/17/489

From  
 NAIROBI  
 13.12.48

EGYPT  
 F.O. FAMILY  
 141/1303  
 (Minutes)

Last Paper.  
 16

References.  
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(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

I cannot identify Amin "Rakhy" and his Mexican wife. I wonder if it might be the Afifi Bey? with ref. to the last paragraph. Villain was in Mrs. Dowd the wife of Rukhah Inward at Baker is the Sudan + R. Meira about 2 years ago. He was formerly Head of the Egyptian Sufi sect (known as mystics) but being a unscrupulous man owing to his dubious commercial activities during his trip which was ostensibly made for religious purposes. But there is of course particular interest in this connection. Dr. ...

P.D. ... 20/12/48

(Action completed.)  
 [Signature]

(Index.)  
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Next Paper.



I remember Sheikh Ahmed el Bakri, the head of the Sufia here, from years ago. He was a rather queer chap who had been at Cambridge and had made himself a bit of an expert on co-operative projects in Egypt. He had an English wife who, I believe, was auburn haired, quite a decent little woman. They had a couple of children and an old house at Koronfesh in the Mouski. So far as I remember Ahmed was not red-haired. I remember him as fair complexioned and prematurely grey and baldish.

I cannot place "Prince Fakhry" or his Spanish-speaking wife. It would perhaps be just as well if Sir Philip Mitchell were asked to be good enough to try and get a few more details about these two. We might at the same time give him a little accurate background about Sheikh Ahmed. Or do you prefer to drop the matter as suggested by O.C.?

HLE.

*EACHMAN*

21st December, 1948.

*I think we can drop the matter*

*20/12*

*Re 21/xii*


*21/12*

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

553/17/489

By Cairo Bag.

*Outside Acc. Index*  


GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
KENYA,  
EAST AFRICA.

*My dear Campbell*

15th December, 1948.

Thank you for your letter 553/6/48G of the 23rd of November, which I ought to have answered before but I have taken some time making enquiries.

The only Egyptians who have been round here and have made contact with me since I have been Governor have been, early in 1947, one Prince Fawkhry and his wife, who must have been recommended, I think, by the Embassy in Cairo, probably by you personally. They came to a cocktail party or something here, and I remember talking to his wife whose Christian name was Gloria and who was a Mexican and therefore spoke Spanish, in which I happen to be bilingual, my home having been in Spain. They were at that time thinking of buying a property, I thought on their own behalf, but I have heard nothing more about them and I do not think in fact they have bought any land here.

There was also a - probably spurious - Eminence, a ginger-headed gent whose name was, I think, .....El Bakri, who borrowed a good deal of money from pious Moslems and left a good many unpaid bills. With a little research in my diary I can probably discover his full name, but I don't think he can be of any interest to you.

I will certainly keep you posted should we hear anything further about any move by Farouk to buy property in this Colony.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and Lady Campbell, to whom please give my warmest regards,

*Your sincerely  
R. Little*

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR RONALD CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G.,  
BRITISH EMBASSY,  
C A I R O.