

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

INWARD

ADVANCE COPY

TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICEMr. R.M.S. Hankey
No. 322 Saving

December 8, 1953

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 322 of December 8, repeated for information Saving to:- Paris No. 523, W' ton No. 417 and Memin (Payid) No. 502,

Revolution Tribunal.

Fuad Serag-el-Din is to appear before the Tribunal on December 9 charged with:-

- (1) having as a Cabinet Minister and Secretary-General of his party committed acts considered as treason in that he directed governmental and party policy towards unworthy ends, and having yielded entirely to the ex-King's wishes, left the way open for imperialism and endangered the economic, political and moral unity of the State.
- (2) Abuse of influence in having worked for the raising of the price of Ashmuni cotton and the modification of regulations of the Cotton Futures Market for the benefit of an association of monopolists.
- (3) Abuse of influence and corruption of Government in having:-
 - (a) had a road constructed for the benefit of a relative despite the objections of the Tourist Administration;
 - (b) accepted a £E.5,000 bribe from a former deputy;
 - (c) interfered without authority in the course of investigations into the supply of defective arms;
 - (d) approved as Minister of Finance an advance of £E.100,000 to the ex-King in contravention of existing regulations and subsequently approved its transfer abroad after conversion into U.S. dollars.
 - (e) authorised the transfer abroad of £E.125,000 as the condition of sale of a building which he subsequently bought.

DEC 11

MAXWELL

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

F-371/102419

91281

C.B

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

JE 10118/43

F.O.W.H.

Mr. R.M.A. Hankey
No. 326 Saving

December 14, 1953

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 326 Saving of December 14, repeated for information Saving to:- Paris No. 526, Washington No. 120 and Kemin (Fayid) No. 506.

My telegram No. 322 Saving.

E 10118/44

Trial of Fuad Serag-el-Din at the hearing on December 13, Abdul Patah Hassan, the Defence Counsel, read out translations of a Note sent by this Embassy to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and of a personal letter from H.M. Ambassador to Ali Maher regarding the Cairo riots of Jan. 26th, 1952. Hassan, who had previously announced that the fact that he had been named by the British was the greatest honour he had received, stated that his object in having these documents read out was to refute the charge that Serag-el-Din had prepared the way for imperialism.

2. Hassan asked former Prime Minister Noguib el Hilali, who appeared at his own request to "prove that he had not yielded to the British Embassy's demands", to explain why he himself and Serag-el-Din had been arrested so soon after Hilali had come into power and why the report submitted by the Public Prosecutor-General on the investigations into the riots corresponded closely with terms of the Embassy communications.

3. Hassan declared that one of the reasons given for placing Serag-el-Din under house arrest was that he had planned incidents against the British troops. Serag-el-Din had actually decided to block the Suez Canal by sinking a British vessel. He had assisted one of the Free Officers in transporting a mine from Cairo to the Canal. The President of the Court, King Commander Bogdadi, intervened at this point to say that the Free Officers and not Serag el Din had transported the mine, which had in fact been taken by plane and not overland.

4. In the course of questioning Serag-el-Din stated that after the abrogation of the 1936 Treaty 60,000 Egyptian workers had been withdrawn from British camps, that it had been decided to ban supplies to British troops and to supply the commandos with arms. Asked by Bogdadi why the Wafdist Government had refused to allow the Free Officers to be placed on the retired list so that they could fight in the Canal, Serag-el-Din said that the reason was to prevent it from being known officially that the Army was taking part.

5. Hassan stated that another reason for Serag-el-Din's arrest was that he had been responsible for student demonstrations against the appointment of Hafez Afifi as Chief of the Royal Cabinet. Afifi had been appointed to put an end to the Canal movement and to change the country's policy. The chance to dismiss the Wafd Cabinet occurred on January 26, 1952. Then, as on July 11, 1882, Army intervention to keep order was deliberately delayed.



CONFIDENTIAL

37/1102719 91281

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

J

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 1743
December 24, 1953

D:1.43 p.m. December 24, 1953
R:2.41 p.m. December 24, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

E 10 118 / 45

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1743 of December 24
Repeated for information saving to : Paris

Washington
B.M.E.O.

- JE 10 118 / 44

My telegram No. 326 Saving : Revolution Tribunal: Trial
of Fuad Serag El Din.

Aly Maher, who had offered to give evidence regarding the
Cairo riots of January 26, 1952, sent a lengthy letter to the
tribunal describing the circumstances in which he assumed
office on January 27, and explaining his actions. The letter
was published in the Press of December 21.

2. He asserted that from the first he had done his utmost to
avoid the disaster of the re-occupation of Egypt and to
restore confidence in the Egyptian administration. At the
same time he had taken every opportunity to work for
evacuation and the unity of the people in the national
struggle. With regard to the personal letter which I had
sent him, he alleged that it did not give an altogether
accurate account of statements which he had made. He
had not fallen in with British demands, as the discussion
to which this letter referred had been limited to a request
for compensation for British victims, and he had referred
this to the proper authorities. At a later date he had
himself sent a memorandum to this Embassy demanding inter
alia, the immediate release of Egyptian police detained in
the Canal Zone and the removal of various restrictions
imposed by the British forces.

3. He also stated that in his brief term of office his
Cabinet had not taken any measures against any Egyptian
but had, on the contrary, ordered the release of all persons
who had been detained except those arrested on the orders
of the public prosecutor.

/ 4. Aly



Reference:-		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE							
F0371/102719		91287		1	2	3	4	5	6
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION								1	2

CONFIDENTIAL

Cairo telegram No. 1743 to Foreign Office

JE 10/7/6

- 2 -

4. Aly Maher is in a difficult position. His refusal to accept the Premiership once again (my telegram No. 318 saving paragraph 8) cannot have improved his standing with the C.R.C., and he has evidently been disturbed by developments at this trial and by the implication of a recent statement in a speech by Gamal Nasr criticizing some of the politicians upon whom the C.R.C., had at first relied.

Foreign Office pass Paris and Washington as my saving telegrams Nos. 532 and 423 respectively.

[Repeated saving to Paris and Washington].

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

CONFIDENTIALINWARD SAVING TELEGRAMFROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTIONMr. Creswell
No. 304 Saving

November 19, 1953

R: November 21, 1953

CONFIDENTIALAddressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 304 Saving of
November 19Repeated for information saving to : Paris
Washington
B.M.E.O.Revolution Tribunal.

My telegram 290 saving.

Ahmed Abdel Ghaffar (Personality No. 52) was ordered on November 18 to refund the cost of drainage works which were carried out under his orders, together with the resultant profit. The amount involved is approximately LB.78,000. The Tribunal stated that the sentence was limited to a fine in view of the accused's stand against the late King Fouad and ex-King Farouk.

2. The trial held in open court, occupied six days and was conducted at a pace uncharacteristic of the Tribunal's customary despatch. A number of witnesses were allowed to make lengthy and not altogether relevant statements.

3. Mohammed Hussein Kasat el Edwy, charged with espionage and inciting public officials to collaborate with him in acts of espionage, was tried in camera and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on November 18. He is not known to have any connexion with any British organisation.

23 NOV 1953
X
MAY 1 1953

Reference: -

F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6
1			2		

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19 1953

After a trial *in camera*, the tribunal sentenced Hussein Ezzat Edwy, who had worked in the canal zone, to 15 years' imprisonment for treason "against the fatherland and against its security during and before October, 1953." He was found guilty of having "contracted with a foreign Power and spied for it" and of "inciting Egyptian public officials to work with him for that foreign Power."—*Reuter*.

fo 371/102719

91281

JE 10118/41 A

Enter J

Private

Captain Waterhouse, M.P. rang up the ~~Secretary of State~~ Secretary of State on November 19 to ask whether the Secretary of State would find it useful if he put down a question about the heavy sentence passed on an Egyptian for "collaborating with a foreign power" - clearly the British. These long sentences were clearly designed to lower our reputation in Egypt, and Captain Waterhouse thought that the Secretary of State might like the opportunity to make a firm statement as in the case of the Sudan.

2. When asked whether he was actually seeking the consent of the Secretary of State, he said he would not commit himself to that but would like to know whether the Secretary of State would regard it as helpful or otherwise (see minute by Mr. Shuckburgh and ~~Mr.~~ Cutting at Flags A and B).

3. There is in fact nothing that we can do about this and similar sentences. A question on the lines Captain Waterhouse proposes would only serve to bring this out, whatever the terms of the reply. Moreover the particular case which Captain Waterhouse quotes is by no means the most serious. One Mohammed Aly Sabry, who was employed in the R.A.F. Auxiliary Police until his abduction by the Egyptian Military Intelligence last year, was recently hanged for similar reasons. *

X | 4. Since these individuals are Egyptian nationals we should have little, if any, legal justification in protesting, and no power whatever to protect them. The Egyptians would of course be only too pleased if we did protest. They would regard it as corroboration that the individuals concerned had acted on our behalf against Egyptian interests, and would use our protest for making political capital at home. As

* His case was the subject of a question in the House of Lords /far by Mr Killearn. The supplementary questions and reply bear out the first two sentences of this paragraph (see JE 10118/30) - Flag C

RECEIVED IN C.E.
28 NOV 1953
1/12

Po 371/102719 91281

far as we are concerned the effects would be:

- (a) to demonstrate our impotence;
- (b) to make the chances of reaching an agreement with the Egyptian more remote.

5. A reply on these lines could be made to Captain Waterhouse by telephone. If this is done it would perhaps be well to avoid mention of (b) above, since Captain Waterhouse is opposed to the conclusion of an agreement on the lines that Her Majesty's Government now have in mind.

R. C. Young

November 20, 1953.

W. G. ... 20/11

Private Secretary

Roger Allen 20/11

W. Nutter

*I don't think that either
 (a) or (b) are good arguments.
 The best point to make
 is at X -*

*maybe you would
 care to try that on Charles,*

W. G. ...

/m.

F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6
1			2		

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Mr. Nutting spoke on the telephone to Captain Waterhouse yesterday, and using the argument side-lined in Mr. Mackworth-Young's minute, succeeded in persuading him not to put down any Questions about Egyptians employed by us in the Canal Zone. Captain Waterhouse is, however, putting down Questions about British Nationals, such as Mrs. Butcher, and Mr. Nutting explained to him that it was not a question of our being afraid to take these matters up with the Egyptian Government, but that for us to do so in the case of Egyptian Nationals would really not be in the best interests of the individuals concerned. Captain Waterhouse is also proposing to put down a Question about the transit of oil for Israel through the Suez Canal.

J. E. Killick

(J. E. Killick)

25th November, 1953.

Private Secretary *AK 26/11*

Mr. R. Allen *RA 26/11*

African Department

50371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

INWARD

SAVING TELEGRAM

En Clair by Bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICEMr. M.J. Creswell
No. 293 Saving

November 9, 1953.

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 293 Saving of November 9, repeated for information Saving to:- Paris No. 491, Washington No. 387 and Memin (Fayid) No. 467.

By telegram No. 290 Saving, paragraph 3.

Please amend "Ihmed Abdul Ghaffar, former Nafdist Minister of Agriculture" to read "Ihmed Abdul Ghaffar, a leading member of the dissolved Constitutional-Liberal party and former Minister of Agriculture".

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

IMMEDIATE SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

ADVANCE COPY

EN CLAIR
BY BAG

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. M.J. Creswell
No.290 Saving
Date November 9, 1953.

JE 10118/32

(2 1/26)

Addressed to F.C. telegram No.290 Saving of 9.11.53.
Repeated Saving to:-

Paris No.489
Washington No.385
Memin (Fayid) No.465

JE 10118



My telegram No.275 Saving.

Revolution Tribunal.

Colonel Abdel GHAFAR OSMAN was sentenced on November 7 to 15 years imprisonment. He has also been deprived of the right to wear medals and decorations and all property acquired by himself and his two wives since 1945 is to be confiscated. This sentence has been confirmed by the C.R.C.

2. The charges against Madame el WAKIL under the Illegal Gains Law (My telegram No.280 Saving) are now to be heard by the Revolution Tribunal.

3. AHMED ABDUL GHAFAR, former Wafdist Minister of Agriculture, is to appear before the Tribunal on a charge of having amassed a fortune by abuse of public office during and before 1952.

4. The sentences on KAMEL KAWISH and Charles YUSSEF (my saving telegrams Nos.279 and 284) have been confirmed by the C.R.C.

JE 10118

JE 10118/38

JE 10118/36

J 34

37

50371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

CB

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

7/0 Whitehall Station

SAVING TELEGRAM

ADVANCE COPY

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. M.J. Croswell
No. 279 Saving

November 4, 1953.

UNCLASSIFIED

J 2 10/18 / 36

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 279 Saving of November 4, repeated for information Saving to Washington No. 375, Paris No. 477, Memin (Fayid) No. 452.

DE 10118

My telegram No. 275 Saving.

Mohammed Kamel el Kawish, former Governor of Cairo, was sentenced by the Revolution Tribunal on November 3 to 15 years imprisonment with stay of execution and to deprivation of the privileges of citizenship.

2. The Tribunal later issued an explanation of the second part of the sentence. Kawish is deprived of the right to:

- (I) join any military or civil organisation
- (II) hold any public post
- (III) practice any liberal or commercial profession
- (IV) vote, hold academic degrees or wear decorations
- (V) be a witness in law courts or to any contract
- (VI) leave the country.

He will, however, continue to draw his government pension.



F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

*CB...
Dpd date*

ADVANCE SAVING TELE

SAVING TELEGRAM

ADVANCE COPY

En Clair by Bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. M.J. Crosswell
No. 280 Saving

November 4, 1953.

JE 10118 | 37

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 280 Saving of November 4, repeated for information Saving to:- Paris No. 478, Washington No. 376, Memin (Fayid) No. 453.

Madame Zeinab el Wakil, wife of former Prime Minister Nahas, is to appear before the Court of Appeal on charges of acquiring illegal gains during her husband's terms of office.

2. Under the illegal gains law she is liable to imprisonment for not more than three years and to a maximum fine of LE 1,000.
3. As reported in my telegram No. 1332 Madame el Wakil is already under house arrest on the orders of the Revolution Tribunal.

JE 10118 | 3



F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

1	2	3	4	5	6

<p>1953</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AFRICAN DEPARTMENT</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">EGYPT AND SUDAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J E. 10118/38</p>
<p>FROM Mr. Snowell Cairo.</p> <p>No. 2845.</p> <p>Dated Nov 5.</p> <p>Received in Registry— Nov. 7.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Revolution Tribunal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youssef sentenced to 15 yrs imprisonment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rptd: Paris; W'ton; M. emir.</p>	
<p>REFERENCES</p> <p>J.E. 10118/35.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(MINUTES)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pg. see minutes on -/35.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is better than we expected - but pretty stiff nonetheless.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rumfome 11/21 Ward: 12/11</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p>	<p>(Index)</p>	

50371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2				

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

29

CRB

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

Dpd date

ADVANCE COPY

EN CLAIR
BY BAG

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

J

UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. M.J. Creswell
No.284 Saving
Date November 5, 1953.

JE 10118138

Addressed to F.O. telegram No.284 Saving of 5.11.53
Repeated Saving to:-

Paris No.480
Washington No.378
Memin (Fayid) No.456

JE 10118/35

My telegram No.278 Saving.

Charles Boules Youssef was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by the Revolution Tribunal on November 4 after being tried in camera.



Reference:-

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

50371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

C.B.

EN CLAIR

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Depl.

UNCLASSIFIED

MR. M. J. CRESWELL
No. 272 Saving
October 26, 1953.

E 10118/27.

J

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 272 saving of
October 26, 1953.

Repeated Saving to:-

Paris No. 468
Washington No. 367
Memin (Fayid) No. 442

5 E 10118 / 27
OCT 27 1953
XIX

My telegram No.245 Saving, para.3.

Soliman Ghannam, former Wafdist Minister of Commerce and Industry was sentenced on October 25 to fifteen years imprisonment with stay of execution. The sales of land which were the subject of charges ii(a) and (b) have been annulled and the land confiscated for the benefit of the public.

2. The suspended sentence and the order confiscating the land have been confirmed by the C.R.C.

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAMFROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Crowell

No: 274 Saving

R: October 30, 1953.

October 28, 1953.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 274 Saving
of October 28Repeated for information Saving to: Washington.
Paris.
B.M.E.O..Revolitional TribunalMy telegram No: 270 Saving.

Dr. Ahmed Nakib was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on October 27 and confiscation of all property acquired by him and his children since September 1939.

2. At the same session Zaki Mohamed Shehata was sentenced for espionage to penal servitude for life after a one-hour trial in camera. According to the Press he was foreman of a Jewish-owned printing works and President of the Port Said Printing Workers Union.

3. It has also been announced that Brigadier Mohamed Hilmi Hussein, former Director of the royal garages, has been charged with abuse of influence in that during and before 1952, by virtue of his close relationship with the ex-King, he:-

- (1) acquired a fortune by illegal means;
- (2) illegally secured for his son-in-law, Lt.-Col. Dr. Ahmed Lufti al Kabbani, exceptional promotion.

JJJJJ

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

HOUSE OF LORDS

20th October, 1953.

The Lord Killearn:- To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any information can be given to the House regarding the execution of the Egyptian Mahmoud Sabry who, according to Press reports, was employed by the British Forces in the Canal Zone until his arrest on 30th November last year.

The Marquess of Reading replied:-

Mahmoud Sabry was an Egyptian employed by British Forces from September 1939 until the time of his arrest in November 1952. Representations were made by the General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt at the time of his arrest, and an approach was made later by Her Majesty's Embassy in August, when it was brought to the attention of the Egyptian authorities that he had been in prison for nine months without any charge being brought against him. On September 23 it was announced that Sabry would be brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal charged with treason and espionage and with torturing fellow-Egyptians while employed by a foreign power. The case was tried in camera and Sabry was condemned to death on October 12 and executed on October 13 without the details of the charges against him being disclosed.

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

1. Why did Her Majesty's Government do nothing to save him?

He was an Egyptian subject and as such subject to Egyptian law and Egyptian judicial procedures. Everything was done for him that could be done for an Egyptian employee of the British Forces.

2. Is it not disgraceful that the Egyptian Government, with which we are reported to be about to reach an agreement, should behave in this barbarous way towards an employee of the British Forces?

The method of trial and execution was certainly arbitrary. It is for the Egyptian Government to judge whether or not their action was wise.

3. Had Mahmoud Sabry any dependents?

He was the sole breadwinner for 8 persons. Her Majesty's Government are making his widow a monthly allotment and the question of a pension for her is being considered.

4. Will the Foreign Secretary bring home to the Egyptian Government the disgust with which this case has been read about here?

My Right Honourable Friend will see that that is done.

F0371/102719 91281

1	2	3	4	5	6
			1		2

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Registry
No. JE 1018/28

+1

28/5

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. letter to:

Sir Waldron
Smithers, M.P.

from:

the Secretary
of State.

MR NUTTING

You wrote to the Secretary of State on October 21 enclosing a letter from your constituent, Mr. Cowdy, which I now return. I hope the following points will be useful to you in your reply.

Although we share Mr. Cowdy's disquiet at these summary proceedings, the fact that Mahmoud Sabry was an Egyptian citizen and subject to Egyptian law inevitably militated against intervention by Her Majesty's Government. Sabry had the protection of our forces so long as he obeyed orders and stayed within the perimeter wire, but at the time of his arrest there were no grounds on which to contest the action of the Egyptian police. Nevertheless, as Lord Reading pointed out in the House of Lords last week, representations were made by the General Officer Commanding British troops in Egypt on his behalf and a later attempt was made by Her Majesty's Embassy to ensure a fair trial. No details were published of the charges brought against Mahmoud Sabry, however, and it was therefore impossible for Her Majesty's Government to volunteer evidence in his support.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Private
Secretary first.

MR KILICK

qu 27/10

qu 27/10

RECEIVED
1955
28

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION



CB

SAVING TELEGRAM

En Clair by Bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. M.J. Creswell
No. 275 Saving
October 29, 1953

For Whitehall

UNCLASSIFIED

10119 / 34

ADVISORY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 275 of October 29, repeated saving for information to:

Washington No. 371
Paris No. 472
BMEQ Fayid No. 466



Revolution Tribunal

JE10119 / 3

My telegram No. 1332.

The charges against Mohammed Kamel el Kaouiche, former Governor of Cairo and Colonel (ret'd) Abdel Ghaffar Osman have been announced. The latter is to be tried on October 31 and the former on November 1.

2. Al Kaouiche is accused of acts of corruption in that he
 - (a) intervened to cause Mohammed Azmi former Public Prosecutor, to close the inquiry into the defective arms case;
 - (b) acquired office and promotion by the influence of Mohammed Hassan, the ex-King's valet.
3. Abdel Ghaffar Osman is accused of treason in that he, in 1948, signed a contract for the supply of a quarter of a million grenades to the Egyptian Army, and connived with the Company concerned in their defective manufacture.
4. Abdel Ghaffar's case is one of those which was shelved under the Wafdist Government's handling of the affair in 1951, and when the question was re-opened under the new regime, Abdel Ghaffar was tried and fined the trivial sum of £E.100, along with Lt. Col. Hussein Mansour (my telegram No. 154(S) paragraph 8) /of June 22/.
5. My telegram No. 274 Saving. The sentences on Dr. Ahmad Nakib and Zaki Mohammed Shehata have been confirmed by the Council for the Revolutionary Command.

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

J

AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

1957

J E 1018/25

FROM Mr. Croswell,
Cairo.

No. 2780.

Dated Nov. 2.

Received in
Registry— Nov 4.

The charges against Charles Boules
Joussif who will appear before the
Revolutionary Tribunal on 3rd Nov.

Sentence was passed, & confirmed by
C.R.C., on the Brigadier Delmy Houssein

Rptd: Cairo, W/tn, B.H.E.O.

REFERENCES

SE. 1018/24

(MINUTES)

Joussif
I'm a traitor (he will go the same way
as Sabri. If he was in the blue caps
he will probably have conducted interrogations
under 'third degree'.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Remy
Gxi

R. J. S.
7/7h

also. 10/11/57

Navsee -/25. He didn't.

Remy
11/11

(Action completed)

9817/11

(Index)

WB.
27.11.57

F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Cairo A172 of 2/11/53

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

En Clair by Bag.

ADVANCE COPY

CB.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. M.J. Creswell
No. 278 Saving

November 2, 1953.

E 10118 / 35

Dep't R.I.K

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 278 Saving of November 2, repeated for information Saving to:- Washington No. 373, Paris No. 475, B.M.E.O. Fayid No. 550.

Revolution Tribunal

One Charles Boulas Yousscf is to appear before the Tribunal on Tuesday on a charge of treason in that he committed acts of treason against the Fatherland and its security by making, in 1953, serious contacts with foreign quarters for the purpose of harming the supreme interests of the country.

2. He was employed from 1948-51 in the R.A.F. police. He later joined the Army Auxiliary Police ('Blue Caps') but resigned to go to the Air Ministry Works Department by which he was employed as a Chief Clerk at Fayid at the time of his arrest. He is a brother-in-law of Alfred Awad Michail who was hanged on October 17 (my telegram No. 245 Saving).

3. The sentence passed on ex-Brigadier Hilmy Hussain, former Director of the Royal Transport, of being cashiered and suffering confiscation of all the property acquired by him, his wife and his children since January 1, 1944 has been confirmed by the C.R.C. He was spared imprisonment, the court stated, on consideration of his poor state of health.



50371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAMFROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By Bag

Mr. Hankey

No. 270 Saving

October 22, 1953

R. October 23, 1953

PRIORITYAddressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 270 Saving of
October 22

Repeated for information Saving to Paris

Washington

B.M.E.O.

Revolution Tribunal.

Dr. Ahmed Nakib (my telegram No. 1332) has been charged with the following:-

(i) Corruption during and before 1952 by having, through his relationship with the former King, committed acts which had disastrous consequences on the political and social life of the country.

(ii) Abuse of influence in that while Director of the Moassat Hospital he disposed of certain of the Hospital's assets for his personal profit.

Nakib has already been sentenced by the Anti Corruption Tribunal for disposing of part of the Hospital's funds and was barred from holding any public position for five years (my telegram No. 159 Saving, paragraph 10).

2. Zaki Mohamed Shehata, arrested recently in Port Said, has been charged with having supplied information to a foreign power during and before October 1953. It was announced that he was arrested while in possession of incriminating documents and that a search of his house revealed further papers which showed that he had been in touch with "certain quarters" for three years. No personal particulars about Shehata have yet been given.

bbbbb

1953
OCT 23 11 11 AM
F O

FO371/102719

91281

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Lord Reading

Mahmoud Sattay & PQ

I attach a letter from the High Ministry. It need not alter the text of the answer. I don't think it matters much that General Josting did not make a formal representation till a month after the arrest.

2. In answer to the second supplementary question, you might add "I wd. not dissent from the (Noble Lord's) description of this act as barbarous. I may add that it is typical of the proceedings of this Tribunal, which has been active since September 1945 & has dealt with about 20 cases in the same manner" [some were omitted etc].

3. Q. "Had Mr. Sattay any dependents?"
A. "He was the sole breadwinner of 8 persons. His wife is already his widow & a monthly allowance of the (mother?) of a person for her is being considered."

P.W. Cole
20/11/46

Insert in the files

A.

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION



① Int. aff.
 ② African Dept.
 (for reply by Mr. Nunn)

21st October, 1953.

E. 10118/23

Dear Anthony

I enclose a letter and a cutting which have come from a constituent of mine, which please return.

I should be grateful for a considered reply which I can send to him.

Yours truly

Walden

The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,
 Foreign Office,
 Downing Street,
 S.W.1.

F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6

Tel. No. ABNEY 344, Ext.

Fuller

AIR MINISTRY,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

19th October 1953

Mr. G. G. G. G.

JE 10 118 129

Mr. G. G. G. G.

Your telephone conversation with Mr. Shearer refers

1. Attached is a copy of the signal we received from HQ, M.E.A.F.

2. References to the protests made on behalf of Mr. G. G. G. G. in other correspondence held by us are as follows

a) a letter dated 11th March 1953 to HQ from HQ Middle East

As Force states, inter alia,

F0371/102719

91281

" An official protest has been made
 by writing to the Governor of the
 Sudan Zone without satisfaction
 and HM Embassy in Cairo
 have stated that they are unable
 to intervene on Mr. Sabry's behalf
 since he is an Egyptian subject "

2) a letter dated 26th August 1953
 attaches a copy of a letter
 dated 11th August 1953 from British
 Middle East Office, Political
 Division, L710, MELF 17 to
 HM Embassy, Cairo in which is
 stated, inter alia,

" So far as we know the only
 protest and request in this
 connection made formally was

F0371/102719

91287

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Not as Solicitor.

M. J. TAYLOR, LL.B.

(LATE LEONARD HEWLETT)

SOLICITOR

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

TELEPHONE NO. 2011

INDEXED

23 MONSON ROAD,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. J

E 10118 / 25.

Our Ref. MJT/BKD.

20th October, 1953.

To The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

In the Daily Telegraph today there appears the following letter.

"He Believed In Us".

To The Editor of the Daily Telegraph.

Sir - One of the most saddening acts of betrayal of recent years has surely been the abandonment by Britain of Mahmoud Sabry Aly, the Egyptian executed in Cairo.

For Britain he had worked faithfully and well through two years and the peace years - without going against the interests of his own country. Yet we allow him to meet a traitor's end without apparently any attempt by our Embassy officials on the spot to prevent this act of vengeance upon one who believed in us.

We can imagine the usual phrases, "Gen. Neguib must not be annoyed." "Matters of policy." "Diplomatic considerations." And so another brave man dies shamefully, and the evil and the cowardly and the weak and spineless go on. Yours, &c.,
Harpenden. M. J. BARRETT.

Might I please be told what the Government's version of this matter is, please? No doubt you will see that the Daily Express has had a lot to say on the same lines as this letter. If the Government have a complete answer, please let me be told what it is, because no-one is more willing than I am to make every possible allowance for the present Conservative Government, and I always have been a loyal Conservative, (not that I am prepared to refrain from speaking my mind at times, and to do the party justice, the Conservatives have never taken a drastic line with fair criticism from party members or from people outside the party for that matter.

M. J. Taylor, LL.B.

Yours faithfully,

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Not As Solicitor.
W. J. TAYLOR, LL.B.

LATE LEONARD HEWLETT

SOLICITOR

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

TELEPHONE NO. 2011

23 MONSON ROAD,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*
SECOND LETTER.

20th October, 1953.

Our Ref. MJT/BKD.

To The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
London, E. W. 1.

E 10118/25.A.

JE 10118/25

Dear Sir,

I am no blind supporter of, as he now is, Lord Hailsham, though I think that the House of Commons would be all the better for him back there as Quintin Hogg, M.P. but I cannot help feeling that he was dead on the wicket in what he wrote to the Evening Standard the other day on the subject of our standing firm in Egypt. I feel that our being in the Canal Zone is one of those cases where it is common sense and prudence for us to dig in, and whether we have any rights under a treaty, or whether the Egyptians denounce such treaties as there may be, should be no more than the subject of lip-service paid. Our presence in the Canal Zone should be no more objected to than the occasional unpopularity ^(IN ENGLAND) that the Americans and their "occupation" cause, not that we should take it for granted that they will be automatically welcome by everybody, apart from those who benefit from the business they bring. I am not going to repeat in different words all that Lord Hailsham and other writers on the same lines have said, but merely say that when foreign nations try twisting our tail, the only thing they respect is being kicked in the teeth in fair retaliation! I am not going to suggest that throughout our long empire building career we have always been one hundred per cent correct, nor have we been models of tact on every occasion, but by a large way play the game and give reasonably fair treatment both to the Dominions and the Colonies and if there is any foreign Statesman who really does seem to play straight, I am sure that this country always meets him halfway. I am not one of those who, on the evidence now before us, regards Mr. Herbert Morrison as a weak appeaser compared to the tougher and more experienced (in foreign policy) Mr. Bevin. I think it has emerged that Mr. Morrison was for taking a really firm line at Abadan, but was prevented by weak-kneed Socialist Ministers from doing the right thing. Though I have heard it argued otherwise and fairly cogently, I think that sending in troops at Abadan would have worked, and there would have been no World War as an immediate sequel.

Over/

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

2.

In This letter I am not going to offer respectful suggestions on how to deal with British Guiana, because none of us know yet quite enough to set up as backseat-drivers - though some of those on the left wing already seem to have started operations! I have no suggestions to make regarding the Mau Mau, though I study everything in the papers that I have time to read on the subject.

Regarding Russia, I think on the whole you are doing not too badly, and I am not in this letter going to enter into long comments of the "if and if and if" variety such as if the June 17th this year revolt in Eastern Germany had not taken place.....

Events in this week in Indo-China have pleased me, because I really was beginning to think the French had had it, and I do hope American aid is going to make the French roll up the Communist fronts, which before the weather put a stop to the campaign then in progress, seemed to be running increasingly against the French.

Trieste Situation.
Italy and Jugo-Slavia.

When England and/or America move out of where they are in to keep the peace, they are accused of "abdicating from their responsibility" and when we move in, we are Imperialists - England is always wrong according to the left wingers, and by them into the bargain expected to work for nothing! But I cannot help doubting whether the decision to move out of Trieste is right - was our decision entirely a free one? I'd like to know please.

I understand the Foreign Office works by sections and is it more convenient when you are being asked questions, for separate letters to be sent in, so that each can be passed to the appropriate section please? If it would help, and I am so informed by you, then I am always prepared to write separately regarding what countries come under each section.

Going to Moscow?

They we play well!

I regard our Prime Minister as one of the very few people who could stand up to the double dealing of Stalin, and in this he far outshone Mr. Roosevelt, though the latter's failing health is sufficient reason for him not, so far as I know, seeing through Stalin and standing up to him as Mr. Churchill, as he then was, did. I think Mr. Eden understands the Russian minds, though I am not sure that he understands the technique of standing up to, and "kicking them in the teeth," the wily and greedy folk behind the iron curtain, and some other similar folk this side of it.

Yours faithfully,

(apart from the FINNS)
M. J. Taylor, LL.B.

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

M. J. TAYLOR, LL.B.

(LATE LEONARD HEWLETT)

SOLICITOR

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

TELEPHONE NO. 2011

23 MONSON ROAD,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.Our Ref. MJT/BKD.
Your Ref. (JE10118/25).

30th October, 1953.

"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E. 10118 | 25 a.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your form 38962-1 of the 22nd instant acknowledging my letter, and thank you also for yours this morning received dated the 28th instant, but you have not answered my question! Please tell me at your early convenience what the Government's version of the Mahmoud Sabry matter is. Shortly after writing you, I saw in the paper that Lord Reading had amongst other things said that the Government could give no protection because this man was an Egyptian. Will you please assist me to understand this matter by explaining exactly what by International Law usage and diplomatic etiquette it was in circumstances possible to do? Had it been the other way around and an Egyptian been over here and here been arrested, would you not have expected that in similar circumstances, if such could exist, the Egyptian Government would not have been decidedly awkward. I cannot for one moment regard Lord Reading's reply as answering the public disquiet on the subject, though the matter has been overshadowed by the Trieste situation. Very well then, you at your end have your job to do, but all reasonable queries should be answered, unless from a security point of view, not too narrowly interpreted in your department's favour, it would be taking a risk to tell anybody, be he a Conservative or opposition member.

I wish it were the case that when my clients write in with questions, requesting and requiring answers, I could get away with it by just politely thanking them for their letters, and not answering what they have asked.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. Taylor, LL.B.

F0371/102719

91281

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Registry
No. JE 10118/25

Top Secret.
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

RL

Draft.

M. J. Taylor Esq.
23 MONSON RD
TURNERIDGE WELLS

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION
7 JAN 1955
9.

MR GRAY
first

I am sure this is right. But Mr. Taylor should not get more than an ack. to any other letters he may write. (I am sure he will not leave it at this!)

Mr. Spk. I agree
a/s/7/11

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(16763) 9/52 D.L.

+ 0

McA

Nov 9

9/10
7/11

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Eden to refer to your letter of the 30th of October and to say that although every effort is made to answer specific enquiries affecting the interests of individual members of the public, ~~Foreign Office departments are habitually overworked and are unable to enter into correspondence with individuals on~~ ^{it is not possible} ~~questions~~ ² of policy or general concern.

Such matters are more appropriately discussed in the first instance with your Member of Parliament who will, if necessary, make any further enquiries on your behalf.

RL
7/11

F0371/102719

91287

CONFIDENTIAL**MESSAGE**

24521/LMG

DE

(RECEIVED BY SECURE MEANS OCTOBER 17th 1953)

FROM:

H. Q. M. R. A. F.

TO:

AIR MINISTRY LONDON.

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE.CONFIDENTIAL.Z.353.

Your U2496/35(0) October 16. Mahmoud Sabry an Egyptian subject engaged as inspector R.A.F. Police Auxiliaries October 1949 employed on training auxiliaries until Treaty Abrogation. Thereafter acted as interpreter with security section during interrogation of hostile Egyptians until arrest on 30 November 1952 by Egyptian Military Intelligence whilst travelling in car between Fayid and Ismailia on duty. Since been held against non effective strength pending release and return to duty. Sabry had previously been instructed by CPM to remain within confines of his camp and disregarded the instructions. Efforts made by General Fisting immediately after arrest to secure release proved abortive. Efforts by Embassy in August also non-productive. Monthly payments of LE8 have been made to Mrs. Sabry commencing July after proof obtained that she was legal wife. Authority since given for additional payments within limitations of your T47737/53 September 25. LE25 advanced by Air Attache pending receipt of authority for purpose of employing lawyer to represent Sabry at trial. Letter follows recommending payments to widow of

- (A) Unexpended portion of LE66 already authorised.
 (B) LE25 already advanced towards legal costs.
 (C) Payment of leaving indemnity to date of death i.e. LE68.

Letter will also ask for consideration to be given to grant of ex-gratia payment as measure of compensation. F.A. concurs. Sabry was sole breadwinner for 8 persons. It has not been possible to investigate widow's financial position in detail but Air Attache concludes that her need is very real and that she will find it very difficult to obtain a livelihood.

Time of Origin: 170930/Z.

COPIES TO: S.5.(0) (ACTION) (2 copies)
ADVANCE COPY TO: RESIDENT CLERK - WITH COPY OF U.2496/S.5.(0).

CONFIDENTIAL

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

C.B.

EN CLAIR

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. R.M.A. Hankey
No.245 Saving
Date October 19, 1953.

Addressed to F.C. telegram No.245 Saving of 19.10.53.

Repeated Saving to:-

Paris No.460
Washington No.363
Memin (Fayid) No.435

Mikhail, Ragheb and Sweiha (my telegram 1456) were hanged on October 17.

2. Karim Tabet (my telegram 237 Saving) was sentenced to penal servitude for life on October 18 and the confiscation of all the property acquired by him and his wife since May 27, 1946, has been ordered. This sentence has been confirmed by the C.R.C.

3. Soliman Ghannam (my telegram 1332) has been charged with

- (i) working during 1953 with an underground organisation opposed to the present regime and to the principles of the Revolution.
- (ii) corrupting Government machinery and political life and abusing his influence while in public office by
 - (a) violating in October 1950 the regulations of the State Domains Department with regard to agricultural land in order illegally to increase the land holdings of Mme. Aziz el Wakil (sister-in-law of ex-P.M. Nahas)
 - (b) abusing his influence as Minister of National Economy in October 1950 by fraudulently facilitating the purchase of land at a price below that generally offered.
 - (c) making a false statement in Parliament when the Minister of Commerce and Industry in January 1951 in order to secure the award of a mining contract to a dishonest company.
 - (d) making a false statement in Parliament in February 1950 in order to obtain approval for an increase in the funds allocated for the repair of the Royal Yacht.

He is being defended by Dr. Mohammed SALAH EDDIN, former Foreign Minister in Nahas' Cabinet.

OCT 21 1953
F. A. XI 1

AFRICAN

Hay R. J.

Parliamentary Question

†*The Lord Killearn — To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any information can be given to the House regarding the execution of the Egyptian Mahmoud Sabry who, according to Press reports, was employed by the British Forces in the Canal Zone until his arrest on 30th November last year.

20 OCT 1953

ALWAYS 20 OCT 1953
REPLY ATTACHED.

J E 10118130

Refs A & B

Draft answer is submitted. This is a most unsatisfactory case, in that the Egyptians have shown themselves up in their worst colours in the way they have handled it. It is doubly unfortunate that it should have happened at a moment when we stand a good chance of obtaining agreement in principle in our defence negotiations. Cairo telegrams Nos. 1472 and 1473 (copies attached) provide full information, from which the answer has been distilled.

2. Lord Killearn may well press that we express to the Egyptian Government our disgust at the way this case has been handled. Mr. Hankey is not in favour of making any official protest now, for the reasons given in paragraph 4 of his telegram No. 1472. Nevertheless we cannot very well refuse to express our misgivings to the Egyptians, in the way that has already been done by the Oriental Counsellor of the Embassy, without appearing ~~disloyal to~~ ~~parrots~~ Egyptian subordinates of Her Majesty's Forces.

R.A. (Edward)

October 19, 1953

Mr. R. Allen
P.S. to Lord Reading

Para 2 of Mr. Ledward's minute.
Depot all seeking for S's concurrence in
the answer to the last supplementary question by
putting up a separate submission.

Pro. legs
19/x

1245/b

2.46 p.m.

LORD KILLEARN: My Lords, I beg to ask the Question which stands in my name on the Order Paper.

[The Question was as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any information can be given to the House regarding the execution of the Egyptian Mahmoud Sabry who, according to Press reports, was employed by the British Forces in the Canal Zone until his arrest on 30th November last year.]

THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (THE MARQUESS OF READING):

My Lords, Mahmoud Sabry was an Egyptian employed by British Forces from September, 1939, until the time of his arrest in November, 1952. Representations were made by the General-Officer-Commanding British troops in Egypt at the time of his arrest, and an approach was made later by Her Majesty's Embassy in August, when it was brought to the attention of the Egyptian authorities that he had been in prison for nine months without any charge being brought against him. On September 23 it was announced that Sabry would be brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal, charged with treason and espionage and with torturing fellow-Egyptians while employed by a foreign Power. The case was tried *in camera*, and Sabry was condemned to death on October 12 and executed on October 13 without the details of the charges against him being disclosed.

LORD KILLEARN: My Lords, in thanking the noble Marquess for the full details which he has been good enough to give us, may I suggest to him that the execution of a man who has worked apparently for and with our forces, and who was apparently arrested in British uniform, is hardly likely to encourage other Egyptians to collaborate with the British Forces or with us?

THE MARQUESS OF READING: I would not dispute the noble Lord's contention, but he must, of course, remember that this man was an Egyptian national and, as such, subject to Egyptian procedure.

LORD VANSITTART: My Lords, is it not a little disquieting that this episode does not stand alone, and that there have been other cases of a similar nature? May I add that some of us have been quite revolted by the practice of distributing photographs of men on their way to the scaffold.

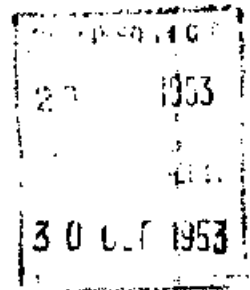
THE MARQUESS OF READING: My Lords, certainly with the second part of the noble Lord's question I entirely agree. I think it is a revolting practice, and I hope it will not continue. As regards the first part of the noble Lord's question, of course it is disquieting. The procedure at this tribunal is a highly summary and unsatisfactory one, to put it very mildly, and certainly not one that would be acceptable in this country.

LORD HANKEY: My Lords, arising out of that answer, may I ask the noble Marquess whether any representations, any protests, have been made as to the effect of such action on the current negotiations?

THE MARQUESS OF READING: My Lords, I do not think the two things have, in fact, been linked.

F0371/102719

9/28/



20 OCT 1953

Registry
No.

P0371/102719

91281

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted
Open.

Draft.

Reply to
Parliamentary
Question
No

The Lord Killearn
October 20, 1953

Mahmoud Sabry was an Egyptian employed by British Forces from September 1939 until the time of his arrest in November 1952. Representations were made by the ^{General Officer} ~~Commander-in-Chief~~ British Troops in Egypt at the time of his arrest, and an approach was made later by Her Majesty's Embassy in August, when it was brought to ^{the} ~~their~~ ^{of his Egyptian authorities} attention that he had been in prison for nine months without any charge being brought against him. On September 23 it was announced that Sabry would be brought before the Revolutionary Tribunal charged with treason and espionage and with torturing fellow-Egyptians while employed by a foreign power. The case was tried in camera and Sabry was condemned to death ^{on October 14} ~~and executed~~ ^{on October 13} without the details of the charges against him being disclosed.

Points for supplementaries

- Q. Why did Her Majesty's Government do nothing to save him?
- A. He was an Egyptian subject and as such subject to Egyptian law and Egyptian judicial procedures. Everything was done for him that could be done for an Egyptian employee of the British Forces.

/ Q.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Q. Is it not disgraceful that the Egyptian Government, with which we are reported to be about to reach an agreement, should behave in this barbarous way towards an employee of the British Forces?

A. The method of trial and execution was certainly arbitrary. It is for the Egyptian Government to judge whether or not their action was wise.

Q. Will the Foreign Secretary bring home to the Egyptian Government the disgust with which this case has been read about here?

A. My Right Honourable Friend will see that that is done.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Po 371/102719

91281

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Hankey

D. 10.25 p.m. October 17, 1953

No. 1473

October 17, 1953

R. 11.01 p.m. October 17, 1953

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1473 of October 17
Repeated for information to B.M.E.O.

My immediately preceding telegram and your telegram No. 1750.

Following background information about Mahmoud Sabry may be useful to you.

2. He served in Egyptian Military Police from 1914-22 and was subsequently attached to Arab Legion. From September 1939 he was directly employed by British forces until time of his arrest, on various engineering jobs until October 1949 and from then on as inspector in R.A.F. Auxiliary Police. In the course of his duties in this capacity he was employed on interrogation of Egyptians who were captured by our forces and became in consequence a marked man.

3. On November 30, 1952, he was travelling in civilian taxi (contrary to instructions) with an Egyptian interpreter and two British N.C.O.s on duty in civilian clothes. They were stopped by Egyptian armed party and Sabry was arrested. British N.C.O.s were released and interpreter (who may have been Egyptian agent) disappeared.

4. We later discovered that Sabry was being held in Assuit prison. His wife, who was allowed to visit him, reported that he was not being badly treated but that no charge had been brought against him. As it was difficult to make formal representations on behalf of an Egyptian subject, Air Attaché made informal approach on August 26 to Egyptian Air Staff Liaison Officer asking for case at least to be investigated.

5. On September 23 it was announced that Sabry would be brought before Revolution Tribunal charged with treason and espionage and with torturing compatriots while in the employ of a foreign Power.

/6. The

F0371/102719

91281

COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

CONFIDENTIALCairo telegram No. 1473 to Foreign Office

-2-

6. The details of the charges against Sabry have never been disclosed, nor the evidence against him. Case was tried in camera (without lawyers) and although defence counsel was allowed to make plea for Sabry he did so presumably in complete ignorance of evidence against him. This procedure is one of most unsatisfactory features of Sabry's trial, though by no means peculiar to his case.

7. Sabry leaves a widow and seven other dependents. On his authorisation wife has during last four months been drawing £E8 monthly out of a sum of £E66 so far authorised by H.Q. M.E.A.F. She was also advanced £E25 for defence counsel at Sabry's trial, on strict understanding that counsel was employed by family not by Embassy or R.A.F. Question of granting gratuity or pension to widow will presumably now be taken up by H.Q. M.E.A.F. with Air Ministry.

8. Foreign Office please pass copy to Air Ministry.

[Copy sent to Air Ministry].

DISTRIBUTED TO
African Department
News Department

ADVANCE COPIES
Sir W. Strang
Private Secretary
Mr. R. Allen
Head of African Department
Head of News Department
Resident Clerk

PPPP