

1954

J
AFRICAN DEPARTMENT
LEWIS AND CLARK

J E 1018/1.

FROM

Sir R. Stevenson

to Sir

Unclassified

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Jan 4.

Jan 4.

Cabinet Re-shuffle.

Announces appointment of Abbas Ammar, Minister for Social Affairs, as Minister of Education in place of Ismail El Kabbani who retired; and of Major Kamel El Din Hussein as Minister for Social Affairs.

[Rptd: Paris Wkr]

REFERENCES

(MINUTES)

108327

(Print)

(How disposed of)

I do not know the significance of this. Kabbani is an ex. Under Secretary in the Min^y of Edⁿ, Abbas Ammar an ex-official in the ^{one time} Min^y of Social Affairs & protégé of Ahmed Hussein, (Gen. Ambassador in Washington). He is intelligent, British university educated (very pro British nevertheless) - & probably carries no weight at all with the CRC. I think he had some differences of opinion about the details of land reform.

Morris
5/1

We must await the Embarray's interpretation of the reshuffle.

Bro (Edward)
5/1

(Action completed)

(Index)

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26-54

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

E 1018/1.

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 7

January 4, 1954

D. 10.30 a.m. January 4, 1954

R. 10.50 a.m. January 4, 1954

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 7 of January 4.

Repeated for information Saving to: Paris

Washington

B.M.E.O.

Cabinet Reshuffle.

At a meeting of the CRC on January 3, the resignation of Ismail El Kabbani, Minister of Education, was accepted. Abbas Ammar, Minister for Social Affairs, was appointed Minister of Education and Major Kamal El Din Hussein, member of the CRC and Controller-General of the National Guard, was appointed Minister for Social Affairs.

Foreign Office please pass to Paris and Washington as my Saving telegrams Nos. 2 and 2 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington].

0-0-0-

INWARD TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

C.B.

F.O.W.H.

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson

INDEXED

No.33 Saving
February 8, 1954.

J E.1018 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.33 Saving of February 8, 1954, repeated for information Saving to :-

- Washington No.29
- Paris No.53
- Ankara No.26
- U.K.T.C. Khartoum No.13
- B.M.E.C. Fayid No.48

Cabinet Re-shuffle

An official communique issued on February 7 stated that the Council of the Revolutionary Command had refused to accept the resignation, on grounds of ill-health, of Dr. Hilmy Bahgat Badawi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, but had relieved him of that portfolio and appointed him Minister of State for Political Affairs. Dr. Hassan Baghdadi, Deputy Minister of Commerce was promoted Minister in his place.

2. The press learned that Dr. Badawi first tendered his resignation more than a month ago, but consented to stay on at the request of General Naguib "as his services were needed".

FEB 10 1954

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

E 1018/3.

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 261

February 25, 1954.

D. 12.05 p.m. February 25, 1954.

R. 12.31 p.m. February 25, 1954.

URGENT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 261 of
February 25

Repeated for information to: Washington Beirut (for Merdiv)
Paris U.K.T.C. Khartoum.
and Saving to B.M.E.O.

Resignation of General Neguib.

In a communiqué issued at 4 a.m. on February 25 Council for the Revolutionary Command announced the resignation of General Neguib and the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser as Prime Minister.

2. After rehearsing the history and aims of the revolutionary movement the communiqué described the "psychological crisis" from which General Neguib suffered as a result of the Council's attempt to present him to the world as the leader of the revolutionary movement, when he was, in fact, no more than the president of a committee of equals. Within six months of the revolution he had begun to demand for himself powers exceeding those of an ordinary member. The Council had refused categorically to deviate from its established procedure, which was one vote for each member and a casting vote for the chairman. Finally, General Neguib had made specific demands for the power to veto a unanimous decision of the Council, the authority to appoint and dismiss Cabinet Ministers and the power to approve promotion, the dismissal and even the posting of officers. The Council tried for ten months to persuade him to withdraw demands which would have meant a return to the autocratic rule from which the country had just been delivered. The General had attempted, by increasingly frequent confinements to his house, to force the Council's hand, and finally three days ago had presented his resignation. Despite the crisis political, economic and administrative, which the country was traversing, the Revolution
/Council

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Cairo telegram No. 261 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

Council had no alternative but to accept.

3. At its meeting on the night of February 24/25 the Council unanimously adopted the following decisions -

- (i) to accept the resignation of General Neguib from all the posts which he had occupied,
- (ii) that the C.R.C. under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser would continue to exercise all its existing powers until the revolution achieved its principal aim to drive out the imperialists from Egyptian territory,
- (iii) the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Nasser as Prime Minister.

4. Answering questions, Major Salem said that the post of President of the Republic would remain vacant until elections had been held after the restoration of the parliamentary system. Egypt would be represented at the opening of the Sudanese Parliament by the Minister of Wakfs, Sheikh Bakury, and Major Salem himself would not go. There would be no Cabinet reshuffle.

5. It had been announced earlier that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would also be going to Khartoum. It is not clear whether this still stands or not.

Foreign Office please pass Washington as my telegram No. 42.

[Repeated to Washington].

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Sir I. Kirkpatrick.
Private Secretary.
Mr. R. Allen.
Head of African Department.
Head of News Department.

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 265

February 25, 1954

D: 1.26 p.m. February 25, 1954

R: 1.58 p.m. February 25, 1954

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

E 1018/4

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 265 of February 25.

Repeated for information to UKTC Khartoum

B.M.E.O.

and Saving to Washington

Paris

Beirut (for Merdiv).

My telegram No. 261: Resignation of General Neguib.

Although it was well known that relations between General Neguib and the C.R.C. were often strained, it was not until mid-day yesterday that there was any indication that trouble was brewing. Foreign journalists, who had been invited to accompany General Neguib to the Sudan, were then informed that the arrangements had been cancelled. Even so there was no hint that the General was about to resign.

2. According to the communiqué it was on February 21 that General Neguib offered his resignation. On the previous day Colonel Nasser had returned from what purported to be a week's holiday in Alexandria. It is possible that the trouble had started before he left and even that he absented himself in the hope that it would blow over. The meeting of the C.R.C. prior to his departure is known to have been a stormy one.

3. It is not clear why, or on what issue, matters were brought to a head now. It may be that Neguib felt that his position on the eve of his visit to the Sudan was a strong one, and that the C.R.C., who were aware of his popularity with the Sudanese, would not dare to accept his resignation. On their side Nasser and the C.R.C. may have felt they could not afford to let him strengthen his position by a successful visit.

4. By getting rid of General Neguib, the C.R.C. has clearly weakened itself both at home and abroad. Though his popularity had waned he was still a much respected figure and confidence / in the régime

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CONFIDENTIAL

Cairo telegram No. 265 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

in the régime must have been shaken.

5. Cairo has taken these developments quietly. Only limited additional security measures appear to have been taken. General Neguib is at his home. He has declined to make any statement to journalists.

6. I have no information yet as to the reactions in the armed forces or in the country generally.

Foreign Office pass Priority to UKTC Khartoum as my telegram No. 29 and Saving to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 39 and 63 respectively.

[Repeated to Trade Commissioner Khartoum and Saving to Washington and Paris].

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Sir I. Kirkpatrick
Private Secretary
Mr. R. Allen
Head African Department
Head News Department

LLLLL

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SECRET

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FILES

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 272
 February 26, 1954.

D. 10.59 a.m. February 26, 1954.
 R. 11.20 a.m. February 26, 1954.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

E 1018/5

Please pass to Service Ministries for Directors of Intelligence from Service Attachés.

MA/O/283/18.

Reference 1217 of February 25.

Now considered strongest reasons for Neguib's dismissal were his failure to agree with remainder of C.R.C. on activities of revolution tribunal. He apparently also failed to agree with them on the measures taken both against the Wafd and I.R.M. Matter came to head with his offer of resignation on February 21. C.R.C. at first reluctant to accept owing to obvious disadvantages and considered alternative of resigning in body themselves leaving Neguib to form new committee. Before acting referred this proposal to referendum of officers who insisted on their remaining in office. Therefore decided accept Neguib's resignation. Neguib now in house arrest and problem of his disposal being considered. Interesting point is that in event of certain developments, for instance split in army, Neguib could possibly become potential head of alternative movement if present régime overthrown. Government seems confident of internal situation and loyalty of army in spite of Neguib's popularity, but are worried about reactions abroad including Sudan. Situation in Cairo now quite normal.

[Copies sent to Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry]

ADVANCE COPY:
 Head of African Department

LLL.

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

E 1018/6

No. 279

D. 4.10 p.m. February 26, 1954

February 26, 1954

R. 4.49 p.m. February 26, 1954

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 279 of February 26
Repeated for information to Beirut (for Merdiv)
Khartoum (U.K.T.C.)
and Saving to Washington Paris
B.M.E.O.

At a meeting of the C.R.C. yesterday the following cabinet changes were unanimously approved.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, Prime Minister.

Wing Commander Gamal Salem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Communications.

Dr. Abdel Galil el-Emary, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs.

Dr. Ali Geretly, Minister of Finance and Economy.

Mtre. Ahmed Hosni, Minister of Justice and responsible for questions concerning the Presidency of the Republic.

2. It was announced by Major Saleh Salem, at a Press conference, that the reason for selecting Wing Commander Gamal Salem to be Deputy Prime Minister was that he was the senior officer on the Army list at the time of the revolution of July 1952.

Foreign Office please pass Saving Washington and Paris as my telegrams 43 and 67.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and Paris]

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E 1018/7

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir N. Stevenson
No: 276
February 26, 1954.

B: 10.01 p.m. February 26, 1954.
R: 10.38 p.m. February 26, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 276 of February 26

Repeated for information to: Beirut (for Merdiv).
U.K.T.C. Khartoum.
and Saving to: Washington. Paris.
B.M.E.S..

At a Press conference on February 25, Major Saleh Salem disclosed that General Neguib had been "asked not to leave his residence" in a Cairo suburb.

2. Analysing the dispute between the Council and General Neguib, Major Salem said that the following alternative solutions presented themselves to the members of the Council:

(a) That General Neguib should agree to cooperate with the Council for the Revolutionary Command as one of its members,
and

(b) That they should leave everything to him and return to their barracks.

They put the alternatives to the officers of the army on the night of February 24 with the greatest reluctance as they did not wish to destroy a symbol so dear to the nation nor to lay themselves open to the charge of seeking to monopolise powers. The officers of the army, however, unanimously rejected the second solution. The Council then offered a compromise which was that the army should elect a new Council from amongst themselves to replace the present Junta and to cooperate with General Neguib. The army again rejected this solution. The Members of the Council then offered to grant General Neguib the authority he demanded and themselves to continue as figureheads. The army rejected this solution also. In the circumstances the only course remaining was to accept the General's resignation.

3. Answering a question whether there was any relation between the transition stage, at the end of which a Head of State would again be appointed, and the period for the evacuation of foreign troops, which was the period during which the Council would continue to exercise full powers, Major Salem said that if evacuation were achieved within a year or less the transition period would come to an end.

4. Both.....

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Cairo telegram No: 276 to Foreign Office

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4. Both Al Gumhuriya and Al Akhbar of February 25 carried editorials in general terms under the title "Principles not Persons". Editorial comment in other papers has for the second day running studiously avoided the whole subject.

5. Foreign Office please pass Saving to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos: 40 and 64.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and Paris]

JJJJJ

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E 1018/8

**FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION**

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 277

February 26, 1954.

D. 9.11 p.m. February 26, 1954.

R. 10.10 p.m. February 26, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 277 of
February 26

Repeated for information to: Beirut (for Merdiv)
U.K.T.G. Khartoum
and Saving to: Washington B.M.E.O.
Paris

In a broadcast to the Sudanese people on February 25, Major Saleh Saleh dwelt upon the difficulty of the decision which had faced the Council of the Revolution Command in accepting the resignation of General Neguib.

He recorded the steps (my telegram No. 276) by which the Council had sought to avoid the necessity for this painful choice. However, it would be wrong to allow sentiment or personal feelings to affect what was an issue of principle. Egypt and the Sudan were bound by principles and not by personalities and the strong ties between the two countries had existed from the days of the Pharaohs and had survived successive occupations by the Persians, the Arabs, the French and the British.

He warned the Sudanese against the intrigues and plots of those who were lying in wait for the two nations, specially these enemies who were occupying the country.

He appealed to his listeners to open their eyes to these truths and to put their trust in God.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 41 and 65.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and Paris].



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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/GTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No: 287
February 27, 1954.

D: 11.12 a.m. February 27, 1954.
R: 11.23 a.m. February 27, 1954.

EMERGENCY
CONFIDENTIAL

E 1018 / 10

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 287 of February 27

Repeated for information to: B.M.E.O.. Washington.
B.T.E., Gov. Gen.
U.K.T.C. Khartoum. Khartoum.

It is now clear that there is a serious split in the Egyptian army over the issue of Neguib.

2. The cavalry officers last night made a declaration to Gamal Nasser in favour of Neguib and in consequence there have been a number of arrests this morning.

3. The early resignation of the C.R.C. is a possibility.

See my immediately following telegram.

Foreign Office please pass above to Service Ministries for Directors of Intelligence from Service Attachés.

Foreign Office please pass Governor General Khartoum (emergency) and U.K.T.C. Khartoum and Washington as my telegrams Nos: 31, [grp. undec.] and 45 respectively.

[Repeated to Governor General Khartoum, U.K.T.C. Khartoum and Washington]

[Extra copy sent Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry for Ds. of I.]

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir I. Kirkpatrick.
Private Secretary.
Mr. R. Allen.
Head African Department.
Head News Department.

JJJJJ



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SECRET

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

No. 343
February 27, 1954.

D. 1.45 p. m. February 27, 1954.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 548 of February 27
Repeated for information to Governor General Khartoum

Your telegram No. 287 of February 27 Visit to Khartoum.

In view of these unexpected events I am sure that you will agree that you should stay in Cairo and cancel visit to Khartoum.

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
African Department
News Department

EEE

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/STP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 288
February 27, 1954.

D. 12.17 p.m. February 27, 1954.
R. 12.56 p.m. February 27, 1954.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 288 of
February 27

Repeated for information to: B.M.E.O. Egypt
Washington G.G. Khartoum.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Among the many reports current in Cairo this morning the following appear likely to be true.

- (1) A large number of cavalry officers (among them former supporters of Colonel Mehanna) last night called upon Colonel Gamal Nasr in the Abbassia barracks and demanded that Neguib should be reinstated. A long and stormy meeting followed which lasted until about 6 a.m., at the end of which Nasr said that he gave in to their demands and that the C.R.C. would resign.
- (2) About an hour afterwards the C.R.C. began to arrest the dissident cavalry officers and alerted Cairo garrison. Number of military arrests is said to be 40.
- (3) A member of C.R.C. Major Khaled Mohieddin has also been arrested, since the cavalry officers had proposed that he take the place of Gamal Nasr.
- (4) It is stated that Neguib is under arrest and will be sent to El Arish.

2. C.R.C. are in permanent session at G.H.Q. and this is heavily cordoned off by troops and tanks. They have also made preparations for a quick get-away by air.

Foreign Office please pass Washington and Governor General Khartoum as my telegrams Nos. 16 and 32.

/Repeated



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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

In Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 292
February 27, 1954.

D. 5.26 p.m. February 27, 1954.
R. 5.37 p.m. February 27, 1954.

IMMEDIATE

E. 1018/12

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 292 of February 27
Repeated for information to B.M.E.O.
B.T.E.
Governor General Khartoum
Washington

My telegram No. 288. DE 1008/11

It became generally known this afternoon that Neguib has been reinstated as President.

2. An official announcement has just been made over the ESB as follows:-

"To safeguard the unity of the nation the Revolutionary Council announces the return of General Neguib to the Presidency. General Neguib has agreed to this.

Foreign Office please pass Washington as my telegram No. 47.

[Repeated to Washington].

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Private Secretary
Sir I. Kirkpatrick
Mr. R. Allen
Head of African Department
Head of News Department

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E. 1018/13.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No: 295
February 28, 1954.

D: 5.20 p.m. February 28, 1954.
R: 6.04 p.m. February 28, 1954.

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 295 of February 28

Repeated for information to: Beirut (for Merdiv)
Governor-General Khartoum
and Saving to: Washington.
Paris.
B.M.E.O.

My telegram No: 292.

The following are the highlights of the various communiqués issued in connexion with the return of General Neguib to the Presidency of the Republic.

(1) The statement that the C.R.C. remains the body in which the country's true interests are concentrated and the emphasis on the need for the supreme interests of the country and national unity to prevail over personal issues. Neguib has thus appealed to all patriots not to be influenced by biased propaganda emanating from the enemies of the country and not to fall victims to personal ambition or to motives inspired by anything but service to the country.

(2) The repeated but, on the whole, moderate reference to the need to liberate the whole of the country from "occupation".

(3) The use of the phrase "President of the Egyptian Parliamentary Republic" to describe the office which General Neguib has resumed. This term has not been used hitherto and seems to indicate that Neguib's supporters, (who are in favour of less authoritarian methods), have made some headway.

(4) The general attempt to play down the whole business, to paper over the cracks, and to pretend that nothing has really happened.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos: 46 and 70 Saving respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington]

JJJJ

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 293

February 28, 1954

E. 1018/14.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

D. 10. 8 a.m. February 28, 1954

R. 10.40 a.m. February 28, 1954

Addressed to Egypt for telegram No. 26 of February 28

Repeated for information to B.M.E.O.

Foreign Office

Khartoum

Events of last few days have been marked by calm and apparent apathy, though relatively small numbers of people appeared in the streets applauding yesterday's decision.

2. Students yesterday morning demonstrated in favour of Neguib inside the university, and they are preparing street demonstrations for today. Police precautions are considerable, by they are not showing much skill in handling the crowd and have just opened fire on demonstrators near the Semiramis, driving them back across this bridge.

3. University was closed this morning.

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Inward Telegram to Commonwealth Relations Office

E. 1018/15

J

FROM: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN

RPTD: CAIRO
BEIRUT
B.M.E.O.

D: Karachi 11.44 hours 26th February, 1954
R: 10.28 hours 26th February, 1954

EN CLAIR

No. 232

Addressed Commonwealth Relations Office No. 232, repeated Cairo No. 7, Beirut No. 127M and B.M.E.O. No. 6.

My telegram No. 226, (not to Beirut).

Neguib's fall from power has been a shock to Pakistan opinion particularly as it came immediately after announcement that he had accepted invitation to visit Pakistan shortly. Cairo reports together with Beirut reports of Shishakly's deposition have been front page news in all papers with prominence only excelled by announcements about United States military aid. There has been no time for much editorial comment but several papers have published feature articles about Nasser and comments from London on probable results of these events and Morning News has published leader which is distinctly critical of Egyptian Military Junta and their methods including gagging of public opinion, dissolution of parties and imprisonment of Political leaders.

Copy to:-

D.II

C.R.O.

Foreign Office

Mr. Molyneux
Mr. R.I. Hall
Mr. G.H. Baker
Mr. G. Millard

ALLOTTED TO SOUTH ASIA & MIDDLE EAST DEPT.

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E. 1018/16 J

Mr. Houghton of the United States Embassy has just rung me to say that a telegram has come in from the United States Ambassador in Cairo commenting on General Neguib's resignation. His views are:-

The resignation came to him as a surprise and a shock. He had been aware of disputes between General Neguib and Colonel Nasser, but did not expect things to come to a head just now. General Neguib's fall represented a serious loss, perhaps more from the point of view of Egypt's international position than her domestic one. It seems that General Neguib tried to insist on exercising the powers which he thought appropriate to a President, and was encouraged in this by his personal bodyguard and by his wife. When the C.R.C., led by Colonel Nasser, held out against this, he submitted his resignation. This happened some three weeks ago and was only accepted last night, after a meeting attended by the whole C.R.C. and (though this point is not entirely certain) by their immediate supporters in the Egyptian army. The decision to accept the General's resignation was unanimous. The conclusion is that no trouble need be expected from possible divisions within the C.R.C.

2. The United States Ambassador does not comment on whether General Neguib's resignation may give rise to dissatisfaction

- (a) in that part of the army not intimately connected with the C.R.C., or
- (b) in the country as a whole.

It is hard to imagine that this can be avoided. General Neguib, unlike Colonel Nasser, is popular in both spheres. How

/far

far this factor is likely to endanger the future security of the régime it is, however, too early to speculate.

3. We must also expect the Moslem Brotherhood to take courage from this event, and to hold secret meetings at which they may well lay plans for the assassination of leading personalities. Here again, however, we cannot prophecy what results they are capable of achieving, because we do not know how many potential organizers or assassins escaped the arrests last month.

Ram Lome

February 25, 1954

It is hard to believe that what has already developed into a coup d'état really turned on the issue of Nguib 'exercising the powers which he thought appropriate to a President' is a constitutional point. He must have intervened and 'put his foot down' regarding one or more points of current policy. It is, I think, useless at present to speculate about the point or points concerned.

E.B. Ashley
25.2.

P.A. 26/2

Wm
1/3

SECRET

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP.

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No: 298
March 1, 1954.

D: 4.03 p.m. March 1, 1954.
R: 4.06 p.m. March 1, 1954.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

E 1018/17.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 298 of March 1

Repeated for information to: B.M.E.O., Governor-General
Khartoum.
U.K.T.C. Khartoum.
B.T.E..
Washington.
Beirut (for Herdiv).

JE 1018/9

My telegrams Nos: 284, 287 and 288.

JE 1018/10
JE 1018/11

Reports now received make it clear that the confusion on February 26 and 27 was even greater than appeared at the time. Not only was the army split into two violently hostile factions, but several members of the C.R.C. were not fully in agreement with the decision to dismiss Neguib and there were strong demands in the provinces (particularly in upper Egypt) for Neguib's reinstatement.

2. Open hostilities nearly started at Abbassia on February 27 between the cavalry who were in favour of Neguib, and the so-called "free officers" and elements of the artillery who supported the C.R.C. decision. The Commander-in-Chief at one moment threw in his hand altogether. The cavalry officers were only partly placated by the reinstatement of Neguib and continued to refuse to take orders until the morning of February 28.

3. The terms on which the apparent "reconciliation" was effected were vague in the extreme, amounting to little more than acceptance of a demand by Neguib that parliamentary life should be re-established and that he, as President, should have greater powers. Nobody has apparently thought out what these powers should be or how the constituent assembly announced last night (but given no (repeat no) prominence in Arabic Press) shall be appointed and shall get to work. Neguib is thought to have in mind a nominated body of about 100-120 members. Ali Maher, Subiman Hafex and Sanheuri are being consulted about this.

1954
MAR 1 1954

1. The basis.....

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SECRET

Cairo telegram No: 298 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

4. The basic problem of the future status and powers of the C.R.C. appears to be still unresolved. Noguib has told both his own supporters and also Gamal Nasr to keep things quiet until his return from Khartoum; the situation will then be sorted out, but it is unlikely that Noguib's supporters will be easily persuaded to agree to continuation of Gamal Nasr and Salah Salem in their present appointments. There is some talk of the establishment of a civilian Government and the relegation of the C.R.C. to the advisory position which it held in August 1952.

5. Meanwhile the loss of face undergone by the C.R.C., the personal behaviour of certain of its members, and the general feeling of uncertainty may give a chance to disorderly elements such as the Ikhwan to make trouble. The wording of Government statements and appeals for order this morning give the impression of weakness. The security forces are however showing determination to keep order and numerous arrests are being made of "Communists" and other potential trouble-makers.

Foreign Office please pass Washington, Governor-General Khartoum, U.K.T.C. Khartoum and Beirut as my telegrams Nos: 19, 38, 41 and 47 respectively. B.M.E.O. please pass BTE as my telegram No: 28.

[Repeated to Washington, Governor-General Khartoum, U.K.T.C. Khartoum, and Beirut]

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir I. Kirkpatrick.
Private Secretary.
Mr. Dodds Parker.
Mr. R. Allen.
Head African Department.
Head News Department.

JJJJJ

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

E 1018/18.

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 297
March 1, 1954.

D. 5.05 p.m. March 1, 1954.
R. 6.30 p.m. March 1, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 297 of March 1
Repeated for information to:- Beirut (for Merdiv)

U.K.T.C. Khartoum

B.M.E.O.

and Saving to:- Washington

My telegram No. 295. - JE 1018/13

In his speech on February 28, to the crowd gathered to welcome his return as President of the Republic, General Neguib announced that it had been decided that Egypt should be a Parliamentary Republic and that a constituent assembly representing all classes of the nation should be set up immediately. This assembly would perform temporarily the duties of a parliament and would revise the provisions of the constitution, which was at present being drafted. After that, general elections would be held and the parliamentary system would be restored completely by the end of the transition period at the latest. The General explained that this decision "had been agreed upon, although it was not mentioned in statements previously made".

2. This statement was given great prominence in the foreign press but little in the Arabic papers although all carried the same text.

3. The transition period was originally defined as three years from January 1953, but on Friday Major Salem spoke of the possibility of its ending sooner if evacuation were achieved.

4. Later in his speech, the President also declared that it had been decided to pardon all those who had been punished or threatened with punishment or with transfer to another post as a result of this week's developments.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Washington as my telegram No. 49

[Repeated Saving to Washington].



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITE HALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 804
March 2, 1954

D. 2.08 p. m. March 2, 1954

R. 3.21 p. m. March 2, 1954

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

E 1018/19.

J
JE 1018/17

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 304 of March 2
Repeated for information to B. M. E. O. Beirut (for Merdiv)
Washington and BTE Governor General
Khartoum

My telegram No. 298, paragraph 4.

You will have seen official account given last night by spokesman of Revolutionary Command Council (Major Amin Shaker) to Arab News Agency of events leading to resignation and subsequent restoration of Neguib. Spokesman repeated reasons previously given for the former and alleged that whole of subsequent trouble was due to Communist plot. He said that 8 Communist cavalry officers would be court martialled and severely punished for their part in it notwithstanding Neguib's announcement on February 28 that no-one would be punished for the events of last week.

2. This is clearly the C. R. C. party line. It seems significant that it was put out after news had been received here of the disturbances at Khartoum and therefore probably in anticipation of Neguib's return. The tone suggests that the "reconciliation" between Neguib and the C. R. C. is even more begun than it had previously appeared. The United States Embassy, however, apparently accept the C. R. C. version. To us it seems that the struggle for power between Neguib and the Council is far from settled.

3. There is no mention of the spokesman's statement in today's Arabic press; this, however, is not remarkable since it was given to A. N. A. for outward transmission only. It remains to be seen whether the local press will be allowed to reproduce quotations from abroad.

Foreign Office please pass to Governor General Khartoum, Beirut, and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 41, 49 and 50.

[Repeated to Khartoum, Beirut and Washington]

PPPP



SAVING TELEGRAM

CB 5
No. 1018/21

En Clair by bag.

ADVANCE COPY
FROM SAHRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson

No. 44 Saving
March 1, 1954.

E 1018/21

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 44 Saving of March 1, 1954, repeated Saving for information to :-

- Beirut (for Merdiv) No. 43(S)
- U.K.T.C. Khartoum No. 18(S)
- Washington No. 47(S)
- Paris No. 71(S)
- B.M.E.O. Fayid No. 80(S)

On the evening of February 28 the joint Congress of the C.R.C. and Cabinet issued a statement in which it paid tribute to the unity of the nation as revealed in the happenings of the last few days, but criticised "some ill-intentioned elements" who had seized the opportunity of the nationwide national rejoicing to serve their own ends. The announcement appealed to all to be content with the joy which they had manifested already, and to return to work in the interests of the country.

2. A communiqué from the Ministry of Interior said that the elements referred to above had concentrated their mischievous efforts on the university students and had armed themselves with firearms and other weapons. They had mixed with crowds of students on their way to the Republican Square and had resisted the police when the latter advised them to disperse and proceed in small groups. The police had been obliged to fire, and 14 people were injured, amongst them a police officer who was shot in the Semiramis Hotel, while trying to persuade some students to leave that establishment. The culprit was arrested and it was found that he belonged to the dissolved Moslem Brotherhood. Two other members of the Brotherhood, recently released from detention, were taken into custody by the police yesterday, while one of them was leading a demonstration on horseback and firing shots in the air, and the other was using a loudspeaker mounted in a jeep to shout hostile slogans.

3. It is announced that the universities will remain closed for a week.



FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E1018/22

**FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION**

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 307

March 3, 1954.

B. 4.29 p.m. March 3, 1954.

R. 4.58 p.m. March 3, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 307 of

March 3

**Repeated for information to: U.K. T.C. Khartoum
Beirut (for Mardiy)**

**and Saving to: B.M.E.O.
Washington
Paris.**

My telegram No. 304.

"United Front" plot.

Press March 3 announced the discovery, in the course of the inquiry into the incidents in Cairo of February 28, of a serious plot against the régime and the arrest of 118 persons, amongst them Ahmed Hussein of the defunct socialist Egypt Party and Abdel Kader Audah, former Vice-President of the Moslem Brotherhood. 45 Moslem Brethren, 20 members of the Socialist Party, 5 Wafdists, 4 Communists and 42 others were included in those arrested.

2. An official and complete denial is carried in all papers of a B.B.C. broadcast to the effect that 8 Egyptian officers had been arrested on charges of communist activities, no officers had been arrested.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and Paris as my Saving telegrams Nos. 53 and 76 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and Paris].

:::::



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

E 1018/28

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 311
March 3, 1954.

D. 6.28 p.m. March 3, 1954.
R. 6.46 p.m. March 3, 1954.

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to U.K.T.C. Khartoum telegram No. 47 of
March 3

Repeated for information to:- Foreign Office
and Saving to:- B.M.E.O.
Washington
Paris

Your telegram No. 32. / M/T

As far as Egypt is concerned the most effective method of counteracting the report would be an announcement by Sudanese Prime Minister or Cabinet. Meanwhile we will do what we can here.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Khartoum and to Washington and Paris as my Saving telegrams Nos. 55 and 78.

[Repeated to U.K.T.C. Khartoum and Saving to Washington and Paris].

DISTRIBUTED TO:-
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ADVANCE COPIES:-
Sir I. Kirkpatrick
Private Secretary
Mr. R. Allen
Head of News Department
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INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

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CB.

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SAVING TELEGRAM.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No. 48 Saving.

March 4, 1954.

UNCLASSIFIED.

ADDRESSED to Foreign Office, Saving Telegram No. 48 dated March 4, 1954. Repeated Saving for information to U.K.T.C., Khartoum, No. 19 (S); Beirut (for Merdiv) No. 44 (S); Paris, No. 79 (S); Washington No. 56 (S); and Memin (Fayid) No. 92 (S).

Al Ahram of March 4 carries a statement by General Naguib to the United Press representative, Mr. Walter Collins. The General said, with reference to his declaration about the establishment of a Constituent Assembly and the restoration of Parliamentary life, that he meant every word of what he had said. It was necessary to pave the way in that direction, but he did not want to rush matters unduly.

2. Asked about the riots in Khartoum, the President said that they had not been directed against Egypt. He had his own opinion about the demonstrations, but would not make it known until the Sudan Government's investigation was complete. He could, however, assert that the rioters were neither against Egypt nor against him personally. The Ansar tribesmen were shouting pro-Egyptian slogans and carried the banners of Egypt's Liberation Rally. He believed that the disorders were directed against the opening of Parliament.

3. Asked about the situation regarding the Suez Canal Base, the President replied that there was nothing particularly new except that he had met Mr. Selwyn Lloyd and had discussed the question with him, especially the two outstanding points of difference. These were :-

- (a) the clothing to be worn by British technicians who would remain in the Suez Canal Base after the evacuation of troops, and
- (b) the conditions under which the Base might possibly be re-activated in the interests of the West.

Mutual confidence between Egypt and Britain was necessary if agreement were to be reached.

MAR 10 1954
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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E 1018/268

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 325
March 6, 1954.

D. 11.55 a.m. March 7, 1954.
R. 12.34 p.m. March 7, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 325 of March 6
Repeated for information to: U.K.T.O. Khartoum
Beirut (for Mordiv)

and Saving to: Paris
Washington
B.M.E.O.

Return to Parliamentary Government.

A statement read by Colonel Nasser early on the morning of March 6 following a lengthy meeting of the Council for the Revolutionary Command, announced the council's decision to take immediate steps for the creation of a Constituent Assembly to be elected by general direct poll and to meet on July 23, 1954. The assembly's tasks would be

- (a) to examine and ratify the new Draft Constitution and
- (b) to perform the functions of parliament until a parliament could be elected under the new constitution.

Martial law would be abolished before elections were held and press censorship, except for defence matters, would be abolished at once.

2. Colonel Nasser said that these decisions had been taken by the C.R.C. at its meeting on Thursday. Discussions were then held on Friday with President Neguib, Ali Maher (President of the Constitution Committee) and Al Sanhuri (President of the State Council) at which the date for the convening of the assembly was fixed.

3. Answering questions, Colonel Nasser said the assembly itself would decide about the future of political parties in Egypt. The members of the assembly could be elected as individuals not as representatives of any political party or organisation. There would be about 250 members which was the number proposed by the Constitution Committee for the future Chamber of Deputies. The C.R.C. would continue to exercise ~~sovereignty~~

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Cairo telegram No. 325 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

sovereignty and its status would remain unchanged until the election of the new parliament. The date for the parliamentary election would be fixed by the Constituent Assembly. The question of whether the Cabinet would be responsible to the C.R.C. or to the Constituent Assembly was under study. The Constituent Assembly would consider all the laws passed since the revolution. The respective powers of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the C.R.C. and the Cabinet would be announced after the next joint conference of the C.R.C. and the Cabinet on Monday next. Members of the C.R.C. might stand as candidates in the new parliament if they wished, but they would have to give up their army posts. Akhbar el Yom quoted Colonel Nasser as saying that he, personally, would leave the army and take up politics, and Al Misri represented him as speaking for all his colleagues in this sense. The date and the manner of election of the President of the Republic would be covered by the new constitution.

4. The future of the Revolution Tribunal would be decided after the completion of the case now before it.

5. The future of the political detainees would be considered by the Military Governor in the light of public security. Speedy action would be taken to settle their cases and release any against whom no charges were made.

6. The position of the Liberation Rally would remain unchanged.

7. If the British made a good offer for the evacuation of the Canal Zone, the present régime would consider it.

8. Akhbar el Yom reported that Salim Hafez had tendered his resignation as Legal Adviser to the President of the Republic.

9. Al Gazeera and Akhbar el Yom have editorials entitled respectively "The Peoples Revolution" and "The Peoples Sovereignty" in which the theme is developed that the revolution had done everything "with the people and for the people". Akhbar el Yom says: "the fact that Egypt's revolution voluntarily hands the people their authority, should be a matter for rejoicing for it proves conclusively that rulers who spring from the ranks of the people are different from those imposed on them".

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Cairo telegram No. 125 to Foreign Office

- 3 -

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Paris and Washington as my telegram Nos. 86 and 59 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington].

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Ma Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson
No. 326
March 6, 1954

D. 8.25 a.m. March 7, 1954
R. 9.14 a.m. March 7, 1954

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 326 of March 6.
Repeated for information to U.K.T.C. Khartoum
Beirut (for Merdiv)
and Saving to Paris Washington
R.M.E.O. E 1018/27.

The Revolution Tribunal.

Al Misri, in its second edition of March 6, quoted Colonel Abdel Nasser as saying;

- (a) That he planned to release political detainees after a speedy examination of their cases
- (b) That the judgment already passed by the Tribunal would be reviewed
- (c) That those who had not yet been tried would not be brought to trial.

2. The release from prison into hospital of Foad Sorag El Ain, Abdel Ghaffar Osman, Ibrahim Farag, Dr. Naquib Hussein Sitty Amor and Adly Lamloua was announced and that of Ibrahim Abdel Hadi confirmed. Al Misri expected that all army officers who had been tried and sentenced to imprisonment were expected to be released including Colonel Mehanna. Colonel Nasser was quoted as saying that he would forget all offences against himself and would try to rebuild Egypt on a sound democratic basis. He would not hesitate to release any political leader if it were in the interests of the country. To him they were all Egyptians and he hoped that they would work for the country's interests.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Paris and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 83 and 60 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington].

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Gypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 337
March 9, 1954

D. 9.45 p.m. March 9, 1954
R. 12.10 a.m. March 10, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

E 1018/29

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 337 of March 9.
Repeated for information to Khartoum (U.K.T.C.)
and Saving to B.M.E.O. Beirut (for Merdiv)
Washington Paris.

My telegram No. 338. — N/R

According to Colonel Nasser's military secretary, General Neguib faced the C.R.C. with a proposal that he should be given powers comparable to those of the President of the United States. At their meeting yesterday afternoon the C.R.C. had reached no decision.

2. It is not clear whether or not the combining of the offices of President and Prime Minister in the hands of General Neguib, which was approved at the subsequent joint meeting of the C.R.C. and the Cabinet, represents a genuine compromise (Nasser giving up the premiership and Neguib in return contenting himself with the limited powers he previously enjoyed).

3. Although this last change does little more in appearance than put back into their previous rôles the personalities who have exchanged functions in the last 10 days the basic problem of the definition of the powers of the C.R.C. (relative to the President one [sic] to the Cabinet) does not seem to have been solved; this had previously been announced to be the purpose of yesterday's discussions, but it seems to have been shelved.

Foreign Office pass Khartoum (U.K.T.C.) as my telegram No. 57 and to Washington and Paris as my Saving telegrams Nos. 68 and 92 respectively.

[Repeated to Khartoum (U.K.T.C.) and Saving to Washington and Paris].

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

E 1018/30

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Sir R. Stevenson

No. 338

March 9, 1954

D. 10.10 a.m. March 10, 1954

R. 10.16 a.m. March 10, 1954

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 338 of March 9.
Repeated for information Saving to: U.K.T.G. Khartoum Beirut (for
Washington Merdiv)
Paris B.M.E.O.

After separate meetings of the C.R.C. and civilian Ministers followed by a joint meeting on March 8, Major Salem announced the following Cabinet changes.

- (a) General Neguib resumes the office of Prime Minister and President of the C.R.C. as well as the title "Leader of the Revolution".
- (b) Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Adbel Nasser reverts to the position of deputy Prime Minister.
- (c) The two deputy Prime Ministers, Wing Commander Gamal Salem and Dr. Abdul Galil Al Smari return to their former Ministries of Communications and Finance respectively.
- (d) Dr. Gareitly becomes Minister of State for Economic Affairs.

2. According to the communiqué, Colonel Nasser had stepped aside at his own wish in order that the nation should be left in no doubt that recent events had passed without leaving any shadow on the solidity and sanctity of the revolution leaders' unity. According to "Al Arhbar" the atmosphere at the joint Congress was "electric" until he did so. General Neguib, in a subsequent statement, said that this return to the previous arrangement had been decided upon as the easiest way to demonstrate the unimpaired unity of the leaders of the revolution, and proved to the world that they really meant what they said.

3. Both General Neguib and the official communiqué reaffirmed the intention to go ahead with the decisions announced on March 5 regarding the restoration of parliamentary life and the establishment of the Constituent Assembly.

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In an editorial

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Cairo telegram No. 338 to Foreign Office

-2-

1. In an editorial on the return to constitutional life, Al Akhbar drew attention to the statement that the C.R.C. would continue to be the repository of sovereign power until the election of the new Parliament, and the decision that members of the C.R.C. might stand for election to the new Parliament if they resigned from the armed forces. The C.R.C. had already announced that its members would withdraw from the Cabinet after the election of the Constituent Assembly and the paper saw some inconsistency in their candidacy for Parliament in such circumstances.

Foreign Office please pass Washington and Paris as my Saving telegrams Nos. 69 and 93 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and Paris].

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INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

SAVING TELEGRAM

C.B.

F.O.W.H.

EN CLAIR

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

E1018/31

Sir R. S. Stevenson
No. 57 Saving
March 8, 1954,

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 57 Saving of
March 8, 1954.

Repeated Saving to:-

- U.K.T.C. Khartoum 23(S)
- B.M.E.O. 105(S)
- Paris 88(S)
- Washington 65(S)

By a decree dated February 27 and made public on March 7
Lt. Col. Gamal Abdul Nasser is is invested with the Powers of
Military Governor General specified in Article 3 of law No. 19
of 1923 (which deals with martial law). These powers were
hitherto vested in General Naguib.

MAR 10 1954
RECEIVED
F. O. W. H.

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En Clair by bag.

F.O.W.H.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson

No. 53 Saving
March 8, 1954.

JE 1018/32

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 53 Saving of March 8, 1954, repeated Saving for information to :

U.K.T.C. Khartoum	No. 20
B.M.E.O.	No. 101
Paris	No. 84
Washington	No. 61

As a press conference on Saturday, March 6, President Naguib commented on the forthcoming return to parliamentary government. He claimed to have been working towards the goal of the restoration of sound parliamentary life since the earliest days of the revolution. He would remain faithful to his pledge in this respect. Answering questions put to him by journalists, the President showed reluctance to go into details about the events of the night of the 26/27 February which had led to his return to office, but he allowed it to be understood that he had been removed from his house by force.

2. Answering questions about the details of the proposed régime he said that it had not yet been decided whether the constituent assembly would have power to grant or withhold confidence from the cabinet. The powers of the President were also still undecided. The Egyptian parliamentary assembly would resemble the French and Italian models.

3. The President stressed the need for national unity in the face of the presence of British troops in the Suez Canal Zone - a menace which was very near. The question of the resumption of negotiations on the Canal Zone problem should not, however, hinge upon the restoration of parliamentary life.

4. The General said that although Meitre Soliman Hafez had tendered his resignation several days ago it had not been accepted.

5. According to British journalists who attended the Press conference, General Naguib spoke in the first person singular.

6. Lieutenant Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser who was not present at the general's conference, informed journalists

/that



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- 2 -

that the C.R.C. had begun two months ago to discuss the setting up of a form of republican national organisation as an interim step towards parliamentary rule. Reports had been called for from Soliman Hafez and Ahmed Fikry, Professor of Law at Alexandria University, and these had been studied with the intention of deciding on some measure to replace the political vacuum left by the destruction of the former political system.

SAVING TELEGRAM

C.B.

F.O.W.H.

En Clair by bag

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No.55 Saving
March 8, 1954.

E 1018 / 33

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.55 Saving of March 8, 1954, repeated for information Saving to :-

U.K.T.C. Khartoum	No.18
Gov. Gen. Khartoum	No.22
B.M.E.O.	No.104
Washington	No.63
Paris	No.86

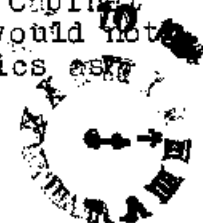
JE 1018 / 26

My telegram No.325.

At a press conference on Sunday March 7 Major Salem disclosed further details of the proposed parliamentary régime.

2. The creation of a Constituent Assembly had been decided by the C.R.C. a long time ago, and the question was on the agenda for discussion by the meeting of the joint conference of C.R.C. and Cabinet on February 23. But for the events of the past two weeks all these matters would have been decided upon. There had been contacts with many politicians during the past three months on this subject.
3. There had never been any question of an appointed Constituent Assembly. It was unanimously agreed that the assembly should be elected by the people.
4. The transition period proclaimed by the C.R.C. in January 1953 would end with the formation of the constituent assembly next July. The C.R.C. would remain in power until the Constituent Assembly had ratified the new constitution and a new parliament had been elected under that constitution. The Assembly would have parliamentary powers and the Council would exercise powers of sovereignty. For instance, should the Constituent Assembly pass a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet the Council would have to replace it by another Cabinet. In Major Salem's view members of the Council who held ministerial positions would resign from them on the creation of the Constituent Assembly in order not to hold both sovereign and executive powers at the same time. During the Constituent Assembly's existence, the Cabinet would thus be civilian. Members of the Council would not return to the armed forces but would enter politics as civilians.

/5...



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- 2 -

5. It had not been decided whether the elections for the Constituent Assembly would be conducted by the present government under Colonel Nasser.

ADVANCE COPY

CB. J

SAVING TELEGRAM

No Whitehall data.

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No.72 Saving
March 17, 1954.

E 1018/34.

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.72 Saving of March 17, 1954, repeated Saving for information to :

B.M.E.O. (Fayid)	No.126
Paris	No.103
Washington	No.79
U.K.T.C. Khartoum	No.28

In his statement after the joint C.R.C. and Cabinet meeting on March 16, Major Salah Salem said that no definite decision had been taken on the details for the restoration of constitutional life. Al Gomhouria, however, reported on March 17 that a new party, to be called the Republican Party, and based on sound socialist principles, would be formed by the leaders of the Revolution as soon as the formation of political parties was again permitted. According to Al Akhbar President Neguib would be President and Colonel Nasser Secretary.

2. General Neguib, in a discussion with reporters, denied reports that the forthcoming elections would be for a Parliament not a Constitutional Assembly. He also denied that there was any intention to hold a referendum about the Republican system Egypt.

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JCB.

SAVING TELEGRAM.

En Clair.
By Bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE. E 1018/36

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No. 85 Saving.

March 25, 1954.

ADVANCE COPY

ADDRESSSED to Foreign Office Saving telegram No. 85 of March 25, REPEATED for information Saving to:-

U.K.T.C. KHARTOUM	No. 32(S)
WASHINGTON	No. 90(S)
PARIS	No. 113(S)
B.M.E.O. (FAYID)	No. 145(S)

UNCLASSIFIED.

At a Press Conference on March 23 President Neguib made statements on several points on which there has been controversy recently.

2. He confirmed the intention to restore constitutional life, whatever the circumstances, by July 23. The Arab newspapers reported him as having said: "Maybe parliamentary life will enter a better stage. All this is under discussion." The Arab News Agency and some of the European language papers reported this as: "Parliamentary elections may take place instead, if circumstances permit, to save holding two elections."

3. He added that he and his colleagues had no personal ambition and he was not eager to remain either as President or in party political life. He did not contemplate the formation of a new party. According to the A.N.A. he also said: "I have no intention of offering myself as a candidate for the Presidency. I will leave that to the will of the people."

4. Asked when martial law would be abolished, the President said: "Very shortly, and not later than June 18, perhaps earlier. No-one will remain in prison unless sentenced by law." On the subject of the complaints of Ahmed Hussein and other detainees that they had been assaulted by the police while in custody, the President said that he had ordered an immediate enquiry and that if the complaint proved to be true, those responsible would be brought to account. The Arabic Press headlined this statement: "General Neguib condemns ill-treatment of Ahmed Hussein and Abdul Qader Auda."

5. All papers are agreed that he said that the reforms carried out by the Revolution would be carefully preserved, particularly the Agrarian Reform Law. No law enacted by the new regime in the name of the nation would be amended.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL
DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 411

March 25, 1954

D: 6.06 p.m. March 25, 1954

R: 7.50 p.m. March 25, 1954

PRIORITY

E 1018/35

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 411 of
March 25.

Repeated for information to UKIC Khartoum

B.M.E.O.

and Saving to Paris

Washington

Beirut (for Merdiv).

The following are the main points of an announcement made by General Neguib at about 4 p.m. this afternoon:-

- (a) The C.R.C. would hand over all power on July 24 to a freely elected Constituent Assembly.
- (b) There would be no nominated members in the Assembly which would meet as previously announced on July 23.
- (c) Political parties could be reformed forthwith.
- (d) The C.R.C. would not form its own political party.
- (e) No citizen would be deprived of his political rights.
- (f) The first task of the Constituent Assembly would be to elect a President.

Foreign Office please pass to Paris and Washington as my Saving telegrams Nos. 114 and 91 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington].

11111



FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

JE 1018/37

Sir R. Stevenson
No: 423
March 26, 1954.

D: 6.53 p.m. March 26, 1954.
R: 7.37 p.m. March 26, 1954.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No: 423 of March 26
Repeated for information Saving to:

B.M.E.O.
Paris.
Washington.

JE 1014

My telegram No: 414.

The Press of March 26 has, as was to be expected, enthusiastically welcomed yesterday's decisions. Al Ahram in an editorial calls upon all at this crucial juncture not to forget the importance of the establishment of a sound parliamentary life and to eliminate all causes of discord and dissension. Al Misri brands as "henchmen of Farouk" those who had attempted to belittle the people's ability to elect its representatives and who had alleged that a return to parliamentary life might mean a return to corruption and anarchy. Al Akhbar welcomes in particular the decision of the army not to form a political party, but to keep aloof from politics and faction. Al Goumhouriya pays tribute to the wisdom of the C.R.C. in solving the constitutional problems with which it was faced in a manner obviously in keeping with the people's will. It had so far carried out its functions with courage and loyalty and deserved the country's appreciation. All papers hope to see a speedy abolition of martial law.

2. Asked about the election of the President by the Constituent Assembly, General Neguib is reported to have said "the Assembly may elect to this post any citizen who enjoys the confidence of the people and their representatives".

3. Asked to comment on the decisions Colonel Nasser in a statement to the Press said that he did not wish to do so as the country's interests required silence. He would not allow himself to be dragged into a personal fight or to delude the country or to forget the supreme aims of the revolution. It would be the happiest moment of his life when he stood before the people on July 23 to hand over the trust which the army had honourably discharged. He would retire from political life on July 24 and return to his post in the army.

4. Various.....

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Cairo telegram No: 123 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

4. Various papers give various "sidelights" on the situation. Al Gounhouriya reports that the decisions of the C.R.C. were taken by majority vote, not unanimously, and that there was strong opposition to the ending of the revolution. The same paper reports demonstrations of students and workers shouting slogans denouncing the political parties and acclaiming the leaders of the revolution and Colonel Nasser. The demonstrations [sic] gathered at the headquarters of the C.R.C. and were addressed by Major Salem who assured them that the decisions of the Council were in the interests of the nation.

5. Al Misri reports that the Liberation Rally would not be dissolved and would not be transferred into a political party, but would remain as a social organization. Al Akhbar understands that the confiscated funds of the political parties would not be restored.

6. Releases of political prisoners have begun, amongst the first being Hodaibi, Auda and 200 Moslem Brethren. Communists, according to the Press, are not being released.

Foreign Office please pass saving to Paris and Washington as my telegrams Nos: 115 and 92.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington]

JJJJJ

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir R. Stevenson

No. 438

D. 7.25 p.m. March 29, 1954

March 29, 1954

R. 9.11 p.m. March 29, 1954

PRIORITY

E 1018 / 40

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 438 of March 29

Repeated for information to B.M.E.O. U.K.T.C. Khartoum
and Saving to Bagdad Jedda
Beirut Tel Aviv
Damascus Paris
Amman Washington

JE 1018/26
JE 1018/25

The following are the main points of a statement issued by the Minister of National Guidance this evening after the meeting of the Joint Congress.

- (a) The decisions of March 5 and 25 have been rescinded. (My telegrams 325 and 414).
- (b) An advisory National Assembly will be set up. It will represent all sections of the nation but the manner of its establishment has not yet been decided. It will advise the C.R.C., and its powers will be defined by law.
- (c) General Neguib will continue as president of the Republic, Prime Minister and Chairman of the C.R.C.

Foreign Office please pass to Paris and Washington as my Saving telegrams Nos. 121 and 98 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris and Washington]

bbbb



FO/wk.

SAVING TELEGRAM

BY CLAIR
BY BAG

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

CR

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson
No. 89 Saving
March 26, 1954.

JE 1018 42

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 89 Saving of March 26, 1954, repeated for information Saving to:

British Middle East Office Fayid No. 150(S)
Paris No. 117(S)
Washington No. 94(S)

UNCLASSIFIED

JE 1018 / 35

My telegram No. 414 of March 25 - Statement on Constitutional Life.

Comment from the former politicians on the decisions of March 25 was uniformly welcoming. Ali Maher was reported in the press to have said that the C.R.C.'s decisions were "all for the best", Abdel Razzak Sanhoury that "the decisions were in harmony with the evolution of the time" and Mohammed Hussain Haikal that "the decisions of the C.R.C. marked a democratic step". The latter also disclosed that the Constitutional Liberal party had already begun contacts with a view to re-organisation.

2. Omar Omar, President of the Bar Association, described the decisions as both wise and patriotic, aimed at the consolidation of democracy. Political parties should resume their activities but should adopt new programmes in harmony with the renaissance brought about by the Revolution. He urged all parties to accept the decisions of the Republic, Agrarian Reform and the abolition of Wakfs and Titles.

3. Ali Zaki el Orabi sprang to the defence of the Wafd against any suggestions that the latter would attack the Agrarian Reform law or the Republican system. Abdul Salam Fahmy Gomaa congratulated the C.R.C. on permitting the formation of political parties at once, and advised those parties to abstain from polemics at a time when the country was being attacked by the British and when everyone's co-operation was required to improve the economic situation. He called for the lifting of the house arrest imposed on Nahas, "chief of the largest party in Egypt", and for the release of all detainees. He hoped for the immediate abolition of martial law.

MAR 31 1954

SAVING TELEGRAM

ADVANCE COPY

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No.95 Saving
April 6, 1954.

UNCLASSIFIED

E 1018/45

CB 16016/1/1000



Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.95 Saving of March 6, 1954, repeated for information Saving to :-

B.M.E.O. (Fayid)	No.160
Washington	No.111
Paris	No.133
U.K.T.C. Khartoum	No.34

All papers of April 6 published details of the articles of the new draft Constitution, produced by Ali Maher's Committee, which deal with the office of President of the Republic.

2. What is described as a "final revision" of this Chapter provides that :-

- (1) The President of the Republic shall be Head of the State and perform his functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- (2) The President shall be elected. Two alternative methods of election are discussed, one by a special Electoral College consisting, inter alia, of Trade Union representatives, and the second by what is described as "the usual secret ballot". The President's term of office will be for five years renewable once,
- (3) The President will take an oath before the two Houses of Parliament to observe the Constitution, to be faithful to the Republican system and the country's laws, and to safeguard the country's laws, and to safeguard the country's independence and the integrity of its territory.
- (4) The President's remuneration and civil list will be fixed by law. He is not to hold any other office or participate in commercial, financial or industrial enterprises.
- (5) He may be impeached for high treason, violation of the Constitution, the abuse of power or any other offence punishable by law. Impeachment would follow a majority vote of either the Upper or Lower House, and the President would be tried by the Supreme Constitutional Court.

/(6)....

- 2 -

(6) If for any reason the President is unavoidably prevented from exercising his functions, he would be replaced by the President of the Senate.

(7) In the event of death, resignation or permanent incapacity, Parliament would declare the office vacant by a majority of both Houses and the President of the Senate would assume the presidential powers until the election of a new President, which should take place within fifty days.

SAVING TELEGRAM

J
C.B.
F.O.W.H

En Clair by bag.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No. 109 Saving
April 19, 1954

E 1018/46

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 109 Saving of April 19, 1954, repeated for information Saving to :

B.M.E.O. No. 179
Paris No. 145
Washington No. 125

CABINET RESHUFFLE

The following is the Cabinet as constituted on April 18 :-

- ✓ Lt.-Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Prime Minister
- ca ✓ W/Cdr. Gamal Salem, Communications
- ✓ Ahmed Husny, Justice
- ✓ Dr. Nur el-Din Tarraf, Public Health
- ✓ Sheikh Ahmed Hassan el-Bakoury, Wakfs
- ca ✓ Fathy Radwan, Minister of State
- ✓ Dr. Mahmoud Fawzy, Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Dr. Abdul Razzak Sidky, Agriculture
- ✓ W/Cdr. Abdul Latif Boghdady, Municipal and Rural Affairs
vice Dr. William Selim Hanna
- ✓ Major Salah Salem, National Guidance and Minister of State
for Sudan Affairs
- ✓ Ahmed el-Sharabasy, Public Works
- ✓ Lt.-Col. Zakaria Mohied Din, Interior
- ca ✓ Major Kamal el-Din Hussein, Social Affairs
- ca ✓ Lt.-Col. Hussein Shafei, War
- ✓ W/Cdr. Hassan Ibrahim, Minister of State for the Affairs of
the Presidency of the Republic.
- ✓ Dr. Hassan Maroif, Commerce and Industry
vice Dr. Hassan Boghdadi
- ✓ Guindy Abdul Malek, Supply
- Out ✓ Dr. Mohamed Awad Mohamed, Education
vice Dr. Abbas Ammar
- Out ✓ Dr. Abdul Hamid el-Sherif, Finance
vice Dr. Abdul Galil el Emery
- ✓ Col. Abdul Fattah Hassan, Deputy Minister of State for Sudan
Affairs
- ca ✓ Abdul Monem el-Kaisuny, Deputy Minister of Finance,
vice Ali el Geretli
Dr. Hilmy Bahgat Badawi, formerly Minister
of State, has also resigned.
- ✓ Mohamed Abu Nuseir, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry.

2. The resignation of Sulaiman Hafiz from the post of Legal
Advisor to the President has also been accepted.



J

C.B.

F.O. 1018/47

SAVING TELEGRAM

En Clair by bag

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir Ralph Skrine Stevenson.

No. 110 Saving
April 19, 1954

E 1018/47

INDEXED

UNCLASSIFIED

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 110 Saving of April 19, 1954, repeated for information Saving to :

B.M.E.O.	No. 180
Paris	No. 146
Washington	No. 126

My tel No 109 Saving

Following are biographical notes called from the press on new Ministers :-

1. Dr. Mohamed Awad Mohamed, the new Minister of Education, was Rector of the Alexandria University and has occupied various posts in the Cairo University. He was also Director of the Sudan Institute up to last year. X

2. Dr. Hassan Marei, new Minister of Commerce and Industry, who is 46, graduated from the Faculty of Engineering of Cairo University and obtained the Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Birmingham. He was professor at the Faculties of Engineering at the three Universities of Cairo, Alexandria and Ibrahim. Last year he was appointed Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and later Undersecretary for aviation affairs at the Ministry of War and Marine.

3. Dr. Abdel-Hamid el-Sherif, new Minister of Finance, studied economics in Egypt and abroad. He was chosen by the late Taalat Herb to be his assistant at the time the Misr Bank was established. He later resigned, however, and worked on his own, but was appointed General-Manager of the Bank last January. He has a reputation for ability, quick decision and firmness. X

4. Maitre Guindy Abdel-Malek, new Minister of Supply, is 68 and graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1905. He is a member of the Coptic Council and was Counsellor at the Court of Cassation.

5. Dr. Abdel Moneim el-Kaysouni, new Deputy Minister of Finance, obtained his Doctorate in Economics in Britain and was a professor at Cairo University. With the National Bank of Egypt he held the posts of Director of Currency Control Department, Acting Director of Economic Researches and Manager of the Cairo Branch.

He also represented Egypt on the International Fund for Development and Reconstruction and was member of the Egyptian Economic Mission which visited Italy, Spain and France.

6. Bayed Mohamed Abu Nasseir, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1935 and was Secretary General of the State Council in 1952.

APR 21 1954
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Minutes.

J

Galal Hussein's views represent those of the disgruntled Old Guard politicians who are excluded by the new regime.

2. There is nothing in the suggestion about ratification of an Anglo-Egyptian Agreement by Parliament. There is no Parliament to ratify the Agreement, and if there was one it certainly would not do so.

3. The 1936 Treaty was not only ratified by the Egyptian Parliament but signed by the leaders of all the political parties. This did not stop the Egyptian Government from denouncing it in 1951.

G.E. Millard
(G.E. Millard)
July 9, 1954.

NaBromley
10/7
CPB
12/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



CONFIDENTIAL
 (1021/4/32/54)

African Dept

British Embassy,
 Beirut.

not much in this?

June 30, 1954

WAM 577

E 1018/52

Jean Rogan,

Galal Hussein, formerly senator in Egypt, came to see me the other day. His visit coincided with that of Abdelmaksoud Ahmed, the Chairman of Banque Misr (who came to preside over the opening of new bank premises here) but there was no connexion between the two. I knew Galal pretty well in Egypt. Though a windbag and a self-styled "extreme nationalist", he was always friendly towards us, and in fact it was we, I remember, who had him made a Senator. He told me that he had spent a fortnight in Russia on the invitation of the Soviet Government a year or two back. They had picked him out because he had done a business deal with them, and he accepted for the experience of it. He said that Communism was increasing in Egypt but God forbid it should ever triumph. Nevertheless the present state of affairs in Egypt was little better in the sense that it was a repressive régime. He said power was in the hands of three, namely Gamal Abdul Nasser, Saleh Salem and Amr, and if these were bumped off the revolution would collapse. Nequib was virtually a prisoner. The régime was governing against the will of the people which sooner or later, he hoped quite soon, would reassert itself. Meanwhile it would be folly for Britain to settle the Egyptian question unless it were made conditional upon ratification by Parliament. Suspension of the parliamentary constitution was unlawful and the Chamber and Senate, although unable to meet, were still in fact the only legally constituted legislative assemblies.

2. Later he visited Syria and on his return here rang me up to say good-bye before leaving for Egypt. He said he had proof that the Egyptians and the Saudis were intervening in Syrian affairs, and he rejoiced that President Atassi had published a démenti of the Egyptian report that he had invited Saleh Salem to Syria. The démenti had asserted that Saleh Salem had said he wanted to go, and the President had replied "ahlan wa sahlan". As a result, Saleh Salem had cancelled the visit.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Stevenson (Cairo) and Gardener (Damascus).

It means 'welcome' - but it is the least you can say in such circumstances & doesn't betoken much enthusiasm!

REB 10/7

J. Allen
Assistant Under-Secretary of State

R. Allen, Esq., C.M.G.,
 Assistant-Under-Secretary of State,
 Foreign Office,
 London, S.W.1.