

**J**

AFRICAN DEPARTMENT

**JE 10157/6**

1957

**EGYPT**

FROM *A. Minette*  
*ADM Ross*

*King - Commander Ali Sabri.*  
*Reports on his growing importance.*

No.  
 Dated *April 26.*  
 Received in Registry— *APR 29 '57.*

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

*A. Minette*  
*30/4/57*

*I do not think Br Fawzi has become a "cypher." It has been suggested that he is hoping to find a change of employment (Ambassador in Washington is apparently what he would like); but in the meantime he has been working hard, and successfully, for the régime in the negotiations over the Suez Canal. He has established a very satisfactory relationship with Mr Haunarskjöld which has operated greatly to Egypt's advantage. If Nasser wished to change his Foreign Minister, I think he would do so; I do not think he would, so to speak, leave Br Fawzi to wither on the*

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

*AM/RS*  
*12/4/57*

*AM*  
*12/4/57*

References to later relevant papers

*AM*

the vice.

2. Nevertheless W/Cdr. Sabri has been playing an increasing part in foreign affairs. This has perhaps arisen in part from Nasser's predilection for personal contacts; in part from Dr Faouzi's having spent some time <sup>recently</sup> in New York; and in part from the fact that if Dr Faouzi really does wish to leave office someone will have to take over, and it may well be W/Cdr. Sabri. It is also probable that Dr Faouzi, who is aware of Nasser's foibles by this time, has made use of W/Cdr. Sabri, whom he knows to be in Nasser's confidence, to get his own views across to Nasser without having to put ~~actually putting~~ <sup>actually put</sup> them himself, which he has always ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> reluctant to do. He is a great believer in indirect influence.

3. It has, of course, always been the case that Dr Faouzi did not "make" Egyptian policy (it)

Number of copies .....
Number of copies of enclosures .....

Minutes

(it was said of him that he made the best of it); but in this respect he has always been a "cypher" except in so far as he could influence affairs indirectly.

Wilton 1/5

I agree with Mr Wilton. Dr Fawzi has never been the man to stand up to Nasser on an issue of policy, but Nasser has always respected Fawzi's diplomatic expertise and found him a useful executive as head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. The junta of 6, with 3 unknowns and Nasser tagging on at the end, is a pretty vague story. Ali Salabi is Nasser's follower — an able and devoted follower — not his leader.

TF Breuchley 1/5

Al 13/5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref:		FO 371/125421		86940			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

1019/6  
JEWS/##

The Counsellor of the Belgian Embassy showed me this afternoon a despatch from the Belgian Ambassador in Cairo dated April 17. This reported on the growing importance of Wing Commander Ali Sabri. It was this man for example who had been receiving the Soviet, Indian and Yugoslav Ambassadors or their Deputies at regular intervals for the past few weeks. The Minister of Foreign Affairs seemed to <sup>have</sup> become a cypher. Ali Sabri was apparently the leader of a sort of junta of six which was now solely responsible for policy. This was <sup>composed of</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>Haytem</sup>, the Director of Propaganda, three officers whose names were not known, and Nasser. The latter was reckoned to be the most moderate of the lot.

2. Monsieur Champenois also mentioned another report from Cairo which spoke of Egypt's great annoyance at King Saud's intervention in Jordan without which King Hussein would have had to give in long ago and of the fear that King Hussein's continued success would lead to Syria's defection from the Egyptian camp.

*hmrh*

(A. D. M. Ross)  
April 26, 1957

Levant Department

Copy to: African Department  
Eastern Department  
News Department

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref:		FO 371/125421		86940			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

Despatch No. 147 ✓  
(1683/2/57)

CONFIDENTIAL



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
STOCKHOLM.

June 6, 1957

JE 1018/r

Sir,

I have the honour to report that an Egyptian "student" at Uppsala University, one Nabil S. Moussa, has attracted some attention in the Swedish press by propaganda activities. I enclose a summary of the press coverage, from which you will see that the Rector of Uppsala refused to allow Moussa to use one of the University's halls for a meeting.

2. According to the Swedish Press Moussa was turned out of France for similar activities before coming to Sweden. In addition to what the Press have reported about Moussa's recent activities in Sweden, I learn that he held a meeting on the 27th of March at the Law Faculty of the University of Stockholm which ended in disorder.

3. I understand that Moussa, who was born in 1931, is known as an active Communist. Among other things he represents the Sudanese communist newspaper, "Sahara". He appears, however, to have been a refugee from Egypt (as an active Communist) since the coming to power of the present régime there. Whether Moussa's activities have been financed by the Egyptian Legation or by some Communist diplomatic mission in Stockholm is uncertain. He is clearly liable to be a nuisance in this part of Europe, but in Sweden at least his activities have not so far done us any harm.

/4.

The Right Honourable  
Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	2
Ref: FO 371/125421			86940			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

1  
P

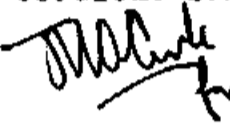


4. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Oslo, Copenhagen, Helsinki and Bonn.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

  
[R. M. A. Hankey]

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/125421		85940					
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

Encl are to despatch No. 147



W

UNCLASSIFIED

Activities at Uppsala by Nabil S. Moussa,  
an Egyptian student.

(Summarised from the Swedish press)

In December Moussa, an Egyptian student at Uppsala University gave a propaganda film show about Egypt. Shortly afterwards the police summoned him for questioning about his propaganda activities and the nature of his connexions with the Egyptian Legation in Stockholm. ("Stockholms Tidning", Trade Unions).

2. Later in the spring Moussa is said to have attended a public debate on the Middle East and to have handed out brochures and other printed matter. ("Svenska Dagbladet", Conservative).

3. On May 24, Moussa announced that he would hold a public meeting, which he would address, in one of the University lecture rooms. Numerous printed posters were put up around the University and the town advertising the meeting, with such slogans as "French Civilisation in Algeria - or Mass Murder and Barbaric Torture", "Preventive War", "Police Action, or Zionist and Imperialistic Conspiracy".

4. The Rector of Uppsala University forbade the holding of the meeting on University premises on the grounds that it was not sponsored by a recognised club or society. Moussa then asked the Social-Democratic students' society, "Laboremus", to give him their support, which they did, but the Rector still refused to give his permission and the 30 or so students who arrived for the meeting found the door locked. The Rector subsequently issued the following statement:

"From a practical point of view it is difficult to give every student the right to use one of the University lecture rooms. The nature of the speech has also naturally something to do with it. I must have the right to investigate whether it is a question of information or propaganda. In this case, the wording of the posters would seem to denote that it is a question of propaganda. I could not consider Laboremus' last minute support of Mr. Moussa as a reason for giving my permission."

( "Svenska Dagbladet ")

5. It was reported that Moussa's posters caused considerable indignation in Uppsala, and "Svenska Dagbladet" pointed out that it was most unlikely that a student could himself afford an expensive publicity campaign.

6. According to "Dagens Nyheter", (Liberal), the incident was reported to foreign news agencies by another Egyptian and a representative of T.A.S.S. turned up in Uppsala.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref:		FO 371/125421		86940		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

BRITISH EMBASSY  
BEIRUT  
July 30, 1957

(Beirut Letter 34)  
CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Michael,

A Cairo friend of mine who has good sources of information called on me on Sunday on his way to Europe.

2. He said:-

- (i) Zaki Saad thinks more about his Washington job than his National Bank job. No doubt he would like to keep both, if possible, but, as you know, he has always been very attached to the former and it would not be surprising if the new Central Bank law, of which you will have seen particulars in the Egyptian newspapers, should be very unpalatable to him.
- (ii) The mutual dislike and jealousy between Kaissouni and Abou Nosseir, continue; responsibility for the Import Control is a particular bone of contention between them.
- (iii) Kaissouni still hankers after the National Bank job. If he gets it, his successor as Minister of Finance, would probably be Hassan Zaki, the Director-General of the Exchange Control, whose stock is rising considerably.
- (iv) An alternative possibility is that Abou Nosseir may be superimposed on the Suez Canal Administration as Nasser's special agent (with Mahmoud Younes as the General Manager) in which case Hassan Zaki would probably become Minister of Commerce.
- (v) Nazm, a Sub-Governor of the National Bank, had confirmed that a big cotton deal with the French was being arranged.
- (vi) Senior officials of the National Bank are fed up with the way in which things are going and there is much frustration in the business community.
- (vii) If you know the right people you can still get preferential treatment. He himself has obtained a travel allowance of £E.6 a day, in Dutch guilders, for his business trip and an exit permit for his wife to see their daughter in Italy.

Yours ever,

(F. Milner)

M.E. Johnston, Esq.,  
Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street,  
LONDON, S.W.1.



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref:		FO 371/125421		86940			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

BRITISH EMBASSY  
BEIRUT  
July 30, 1957

(Beirut Letter No. 35)  
CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Michael,

On Saturday last Mayhew, the Commercial Secretary, and I called on Amouni, the Director of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

2. He too had been to Egypt with Maalouf, and like the other officials I have seen, (but unlike Maalouf himself) he said that the Egyptians had offered no prospect of any early improvement in the economic relations between the two countries. (Nasser's speech of last Friday has, of course, put the clock back considerably and the line Maalouf took with the Ambassador and me looks doubly silly.) Amouni did not think that there would be any improvement until the turn of the year.

3. Amouni's only other comments on Egypt were -

- (i) He thought that Egyptian official statistics (e.g. the figure of ££6.5 million as the trade surplus for the first half of this year) were "political".
- (ii) The Egyptians, however, were certainly going all-out to increase their foreign exchange reserves. He did not know what the precise object was (a remark which I thought was rather jejeune in the circumstances).
- (iii) In any case, Egypt would have to follow a policy of austerity for a considerable time.

4. On Lebanese affairs Amouni stressed the importance of increasing industrialisation. He also said that he would shortly be writing to Mayhew about the import of Lebanese apples by the United Kingdom!

Yours ever,

(F. Milner)

M. E. Johnston, Esq.,  
Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

P

*lx - p.u.*

*JE 1017/12(A)*

*"Journal du Commerce et de la Finance", Alexandria,  
20. 7. 57.*

**Un nouveau Gouverneur à la National Bank**

Un nouveau Gouverneur pour la National Bank sera bientôt désigné.

A la suite de la loi promulguée édictant que le Gouverneur de la National Bank devrait uniquement se consacrer à cette fonction et ne point cumuler avec d'autres fonctions, le Dr. Zaki Saad, qui est aussi sous-Gouverneur du Fonds Monétaire International, préférerait cette dernière fonction à celle de Gouverneur de la National Bank, d'où la nécessité de la nomination d'un nouveau Gouverneur.

*I think that T Deput mentioned this  
in their last weekly letter on Egypt.*

*W. W. Winchester  
Jm 7/57*

*J. Arthur  
7/57*