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NORTH AND EAST AFRICAN DEPT.

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FROM *Sir H. Beeley*
(baird)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. *5 (1012/64)*
Dated *January 16*
Received *January 22*

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1963.

References

- 2.

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MINUTES

(Printing Instructions)

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DESP. 21 CAIRO 19/2.

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
<i>2/11/64</i>	<i>ME 16/1/65</i>

and I attach a copy of this despatch prepared for printing FOWH. The despatch contains a useful account of the main events of a year which opened in almost total division between Nasser and his fellow Arabs, which was re-emphasised with the collapse of the April plan for federal union, but closed with at least a tactical unity vis-à-vis Israel and a re-assertion of Nasser's rôle as Number One Arab. Despite the continued drain on Western approval and Egyptian economic strength through his involvement in the Yemen, Nasser, therefore, may have found some comfort in the close of his year's journey.

2. Anglo/U.A.R. relations have weathered 1963's storms somewhat better than might have been hoped, but here, with the Port Said declaration on December 23, about the "occupied Yemen South", no net gain can be credited.

3. Although the body of the despatch is about the right length, it is rather dull: more of a catalogue than a commentary. The annexed chronological summary is wordy and the summary is, on the contrary, somewhat bare: more like a list of contents. But it will perhaps serve.

4. There is, I think, something in Sir H. Beeley's implicit suggestion at the end of para. 6. So long as Nasser's active involvement in the Yemen continues it is a natural part of his self-appointed rôle as leader of the Arabs (whether or not this is an affectation) to have to maintain his "responsibility" for South Arabia. Successful disengagement, for all that it still seems far off, might therefore relieve his pressure on the Federation.

5. There are a number of minor criticisms of wording in the despatch. UNYOM observes and certifies rather than "supervises" (last sentence of para. 5). The total of Egyptian forces in the Yemen at the end of the year was probably nearer 30,000 than 28,000 (same sentence). The allegations of Egyptian use of poison gas (third sentence of para. 6) was surely substantiated to all intents and

/purposes,

purposes, and Cairo and Sana'a radio warfare has incited to violence as well as to disaffection and sedition. (Fourth sentence of para. 6)

6. The despatch is silent on U.A.R./Soviet relations but there was little change in them in 1963.

7. I shall, if you agree, draft a despatch of thanks incorporating any remarks by other departments.

R.T. Higgins
 (R.T. Higgins)
 January 27, 1964.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 Mr. Gordon 11/2
 Eaker Dept
 Arabic Dept
 W.C.A. (Jan?)
 F. E. (Jan?)
 E. G. (Jan?)
 W.C. 17/2
 M. D. (Jan?)
 M. S. (Jan?)

~~I shall be pleased if
 Dept 2 pass copy
 so that I can
 show this paper to Sir E. Harrison
 family soon after his return on 3/2.~~
 R. C. (signature)

Copy sent for printing.

This despatch would of course have been more effectively rounded off if it could have included the outcome of the Cairo Conference held earlier this month. Whether it is really going to restore Nasser's position in the Arab world, prevent an armed clash over Jordan Waters, lead to a settlement in the Yemen and cause the Egyptians to apply their energies to putting their own house in order remains to be seen. I think it has shown that a sense of reality still informs the Egyptian leaders. Whether it will lead to any real reduction in the Egyptian taste for subversion and intrigue is another matter, and the Conference did little to mend Egypt's differences with Syria.

2. So far as relations with Israel are concerned, the Conference is not I suggest going to reduce the danger that, in due course, Israel may secure an atomic weapons potential against which Nasser might be tempted to undertake a pre-emptive strike. This point falls outside the scope of this despatch but it is likely in due course to pose a greater threat to peace in the Middle East than any Israeli diversion of Jordan Waters.

3. As regards Anglo-U.A.R. relations, Sir H. Beeley refers to the problem of compensation for nationalised and sequestered foreign property but does not here urge that we should seize on Egypt's (temporary, in his view) financial difficulties in order to secure a satisfactory settlement for British claimants. He has done so in ~~separate~~ despatch which I shall be submitting separately. Nor does he discuss the general question of how we should frame our policies towards the U.A.R., though he touches on our differences over the Yemen. Generally, however, I think that nothing has happened in the past year that need cause us to scrap

/the

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Minutes

I think this paper is now
 for to

Sir G. Harrison. MS.
 17/2

W. H. 10/2

MS.
 11/2

MS. 17/2
 MS. 17/2
 MS. 17/2
 MS. 17/2
 MS. 17/2

Draft despatch of thanks, if required.

R. T. 18/2

P. Lawrence 18/2

Comm. 18/2

MS.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

Flag A

the doctrine of enlightened self-interest set out in our despatch No. 41 to Cairo of April 17 last.

R. S. Scrivener

(R. S. Scrivener)
January 28, 1964.

I would like to think there is something in the point made by Mr. Higgins in para 4 of his memo but I am rather sceptical. Nasser will have other reasons, apart from the Yemen, to keep up some pressure on us in Arabia, and if he could get his forces out of the Yemen, might be less inhibited in exploiting any trouble in the South Arabian Federation. All we can do is to try to avoid focusing all his attention on our position in Aden - and I agree with Mr. Scrivener's last para. 2. Mr. Harrison should see a return with the views of other depts of my.

J.C. 29/1

I agree with Mr. Higgins on UAR strength in the Yemen, although I would say that "never substantiated" is fair enough in the public context here intended for the gas allegations.

B.P. Priddy

Mr. McCarthy *yes* *5/2 J*

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UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
January 22, 1964
Section 1

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC: ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1963

Sir Harold Beeley to Mr. R. A. Butler. (Received January 22)

SUMMARY

The *coups d'état* in Baghdad and Damascus, and the attempt to form a tripartite Federal Union. Nasser's scepticism, and the breakdown of the effort (paragraphs 2-4).

The war in Yemen and its effect on Anglo-Egyptian relations (paragraphs 5-6).

The United Arab Republic as an African State (paragraph 7).
Chou En-lai's visit to Cairo (paragraph 8).

Continued strain on the balance of payments, and further Socialist measures (paragraphs 9-10).

A contradiction in Nasser's Arab policy. The invitation to Arab Heads of State to attend a conference in Cairo on the diversion of water from the Jordan by Israel (paragraph 12).

(No. 5. Confidential) Cairo,
Sir, January 16, 1964.

I have the honour to submit a review of developments in the United Arab Republic during 1963.

2. At the turn of the year the only Arab States whose policies could be said to be aligned with President Nasser's were Algeria and the Yemen. The United Arab Republic had withdrawn from active participation in the Arab League, and in general the disunity of the Arabs was more than usually apparent. This situation was dramatically, if temporarily, transformed by the *coups d'état* which took place successively in Baghdad on the 8th of February and in Damascus on the 8th of March. In each case the Government of the United Arab Republic made an immediate declaration of support for the revolutionary movement; and although the Baath Socialist Party, whose leaders were disliked and distrusted in Cairo, quickly seized control of the revolution in both countries, a general feeling persisted that the balance of power in the Arab world had been tilted decisively in favour of the "progressive forces". As early as the 10th of February it was announced that the United Arab Republic would resume full participation in the activities of the Arab League. But it was

the second *coup d'état*, in Damascus, which revived the dream of political unity. Indeed it seemed to many people in Cairo that, as the régime just overthrown was that which had resulted from the secession of September 1961, its downfall should naturally lead to the reincorporation of Syria in the United Arab Republic. It was recognised however that the emergence of a like-minded Iraq was now a complicating factor.

3. In the mind of President Nasser these perspectives were clouded over by his deep distrust of the Baathist leadership in Syria, and an energetic mediation by the Iraqi leaders was necessary before direct contact could be established between Cairo and Damascus. The tripartite conference which was to conclude with an agreed plan for the federal union of the three countries opened in Cairo on the 6th of April. There is no mystery about its course, or about the various tripartite and bilateral meetings which preceded it, since by an unexpected departure from normal international practice the Government of the United Arab Republic subsequently published the verbatim records of all but the first U.A.R.-Iraqi meeting. The omission is unfortunate, because the records of that meeting, which occupied the 11th to the 13th of March,

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would probably throw some light on the rather obscure problem of President Nasser's motives at the outset of the union talks. On this the available evidence is contradictory and open to more than one interpretation. On the one hand the published records show that his attitude throughout the talks was sceptical and pessimistic. He has frequently professed, probably with sincerity, that it has been a relief to him in the past two years to be rid of responsibility for Syria. And it certainly never entered his head that federal union with two other Arab States could in any way be permitted to modify the system of government in Egypt. On the other hand he must have seen at once, after the Syrian *coup d'état* and the immediate visit to Damascus of Iraqi Baathist leaders, that if he stood aside he would be faced with the risk of a bilateral union between Iraq and Syria which would change the balance of power and weaken his position in the Arab world. He was also to some extent the prisoner of his own prestige as the hero and champion of Arab nationalism and unification. It has been suggested that these conflicting considerations led him to agree first to participate in the talks and then to sign the federal agreement in the certainty that the project would then collapse or could be made to collapse, with someone else taking the blame. This is not impossible, though I think it more likely that he had some positive aim in view, even if he was doubtful of attaining it. The heart of the discussion, and the cause of the subsequent breakdown, was the political organisation (as distinct from the constitutional structure) to be adopted in Iraq and especially in Syria. President Nasser repeatedly insisted on the necessity for a unitary organisation on the model of his own Arab Socialist Union, which as he (and the Baathists) well knew would destroy the power of the Baath Party. "Political unity", he said in a revealing phrase, "is more important than constitutional unity".

4. The agreement of the 17th of April, therefore, which provided for constitutional unity on federal lines, did not settle the real issue; and it rapidly became apparent that the proposed referendum on the Constitution, which was to be held in the three countries before the 17th of September, would never take place. In Damascus the Baath concentrated power more and more exclusively in their own hands. An attempted *coup* against them on the 18th of July, undoubtedly with Egyptian complicity,

failed and was followed by harsh reprisals. Four days later, speaking on the anniversary of the revolution, President Nasser stated that he was not prepared for union with the "fascist" régime in Syria. At the same time an attempt was made to maintain normal relations with Iraq, in part no doubt as a brake on the anticipated movement towards Iraqi-Syrian unity. But the fear of this vanished with the fall of the Baath from power in Baghdad on the 18th of November.

5. A fourth Arab State, the Yemen, had sought to participate in the Cairo negotiations on unity. This had been refused by President Nasser, ostensibly on the ground that it would not be proper for this question to be raised while Egyptian forces remained in the country. In fact his military commitment in the Yemen continued to grow during the early months of the year, until the Egyptian troops there reached a total of 32,000. Despite the operation from the 4th of July onwards of an agreement for the disengagement of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Republic from the Yemen, supervised by a United Nations mission of observers, and despite a decline in military activity after that date, it was believed that the Egyptian expeditionary force still numbered about 28,000 at the end of the year.

6. The situation in the Yemen seriously hampered progress towards a more satisfactory relationship between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Republic. The Egyptian authorities resented the continued refusal of Her Majesty's Government to recognise the Yemen Republic, and believed that assistance was reaching the royalist opposition from Beihan in the South Arabian Federation. The attention given by the British Press and by Parliament to the allegation, never substantiated, that poison gas had been used by the Egyptian Air Force against Yemeni tribesmen was interpreted as further evidence of the unfriendly attitude of Her Majesty's Government. On the other hand radio warfare against the Federation and against the British position in Aden was carried on from Sanaa and Cairo, including incitement to disaffection and sedition; arms were smuggled by the Republicans across the frontier; and there appeared to be a connection between these activities and the outrage which occurred on Aden airport in December, causing two deaths and designed to cause more. Two weeks later, on the

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occasion of "Evacuation Day", which has always stimulated him to anti-British oratory, President Nasser announced his support for the movement to eliminate British influence from Aden and the Protectorates. Notwithstanding the gloss which he has since put on this declaration in conversation with me, it is evident that the prolongation of conflict in the Yemen, and the state of relations on its southern frontier, have led him to pay more critical attention than he would otherwise have done to the British presence in southern Arabia.

7. After the initial excitement and swift disappointment of hopes for a dramatic change in the political configuration of the Arab world, the United Arab Republic took the opportunity of the preparations for the conference of Heads of State in Addis Ababa to turn its attention to Africa. At the conference, which met from the 22nd to the 26th of May, and which underlined the demise of the former Casablanca group, President Nasser was careful not to strike any unharmonious note. It was observed in particular that after testing the ground he found it prudent to refrain from making any effort to commit the new Organisation for African Unity to participation in the Arab conflict with Israel. The African Charter which the conference adopted was ratified by the United Arab Republic on the 26th of June, and thereafter the Republic played an active part in the various institutions established under the Charter, undertaking for example the largest shareholding in the African Development Bank. The new catholicity of President Nasser's African contacts was illustrated by the Heads of State or of Government who visited Cairo during the remainder of the year, coming from the Somali Republic, Niger, the Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Uganda and Northern Nigeria. The United Arab Republic will shortly have Embassies in 21 African capitals. Thus, although the negative and revolutionary aspects of its African policy have certainly not been forgotten, the emphasis seems for the present to be on the cultivation of good relations with the widest possible range of African Governments. No doubt the hope of finding markets for Egyptian exports, particularly of manufactured goods, has played its part in this, as has the necessity of countering the growing influence of Israel south of the Sahara.

8. Cairo was the first port of call for the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai,

on the African tour which began in December and is still in progress. An earlier move in the direction of China had been the agreement announced in August to establish diplomatic relations with North Korea and North Vietnam (though this move might also be interpreted as a warning to the German Government, then thought to be considering the possibility of establishing relations with Israel, that if they did so the East Germans would be given diplomatic status in Cairo). At the same time there was no sign that the United Arab Republic was deviating from its generally pro-Indian line in the Sino-Indian dispute; or that it would permit the rapprochement with China to weaken its links with Yugoslavia. And despite Mr. Chou En-lai's advocacy of "a second Bandung" preparations continued for a conference of non-aligned States in 1964.

9. A good cotton harvest in 1962 contributed to a reduction of anxiety over the country's economic and financial situation. The underlying weaknesses persisted, however, and the year ended with no sign of a solution for them. An International Bank mission had visited Egypt late in 1962, and there were hopes that its report would provide a basis for further international financing of the development programme. But 12 months later the report was still held up by differences of opinion between its authors and the responsible Ministries in Cairo. Meanwhile a further credit of \$16 million had been obtained from the International Monetary Fund, and the United Arab Republic's obligations for repayment to the Fund had been rephased in order to ease the problem of external debt in the immediate future. Nevertheless imports continued to outrun exports, and the exchange control authorities continued to operate on a hand-to-mouth basis. It was clear that additional foreign aid would be essential, and improbable that it could be obtained in sufficient quantity except on the basis of an agreement either to slow down the pace of development or to curtail consumption. Pressure on these lines, in the first instance from the International Monetary Fund, seems inevitable in the new year, and will face the Government with embarrassing decisions. Moreover the United States foreign aid legislation passed in December included a provision—the "Gruening amendment"—directed against aid to the United Arab Republic. It was expected that the Administration would

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maintain its programme of aid from agricultural surpluses, but would be obliged to restrict other forms of assistance.

10. Another potential burden on the balance of payments arises from the nationalisation and sequestration of foreign property which began in 1961 and for which no compensation has yet been paid. It has been made increasingly clear, particularly by the I.B.R.D., that some satisfaction of these claims would be a precondition for continuing international aid. No doubt as a response to these pressures, an effort was made in the second half of the year to stimulate the languishing negotiations which have been in progress with a number of the interested Governments. An agreement with Lebanon awaited signature at the end of the year, and some progress had been made in the negotiations with Italy, Greece and Switzerland. A partial issue of the Government bonds promised as compensation for nationalised property was announced at the end of August and was in progress by the end of the year. Meanwhile the process of nationalisation continued; many firms, including cotton exporters and flour and rice mills, of which a 50 per cent share had already been nationalised, were taken over entirely. There was also an important development in the organisation of agriculture, due unmistakably to the Government's dissatisfaction with the limited success of the village co-operatives in persuading the small proprietors to increase crop yields by co-ordinating their cultivation. The new system, introduced in the first instance in two of the 16 rural governorates, provided for a directed rotation of crops which would secure the economics of large-scale production by grouping the small-holdings into homogeneous areas. It remained to be seen how much of the reality of private ownership would survive the application of this measure.

11. In internal politics it was a year of stagnation. The Arab Socialist Union began to come to life with the election of local and provincial units, but it was hard to see what difference its existence made and it awakened no enthusiasm. The National Assembly, announced as far back as July 1962, also began to emerge from the shadows, elections being predicted for February 1964.

12. In the speech, delivered on the 22nd of July, in which he acknowledged

the breakdown of the attempt at tripolite unity, President Nasser looked forward to the unification of nationalist movements in all Arab countries as a prerequisite for the solution of the Palestine problem. This was in line with his previous insistence that a coalition of politically disparate Arab States would never be capable of dealing with Israel; unity of political and social objectives must precede the eventual trial of strength. It was equally in harmony with the doctrine of the indivisibility of the Arab revolution which he asserted as a justification for his despatch of a small armoured force and other assistance to Algeria when hostilities broke out in October between that country and Morocco. These apparently settled principles of his policy added to the effect of the surprise he sprang on the 23rd of December by inviting the Heads of State of all the members of the Arab League to a conference in Cairo in the new year to consider the imminent Israeli diversion of water from the Jordan Valley for the irrigation of the Negev. For President Nasser to maintain that the necessity of countering this Israeli move should override all internal differences among the Arabs was highly unexpected. There were however good reasons for his initiative. Acceptance of the invitation by the other Heads of State, on which he could reasonably count, would in itself do much to restore his somewhat shaken position as the central figure of the Arab world. And the conference, at which his personal prestige and his control of powerful publicity media would give him great initial advantages, should enable him to gain control over a potentially dangerous situation; if skilfully handled it would reduce the risk of ill-considered action by other Arab Governments and would compel them to accept collective responsibility for whatever decisions might be taken. In the mind of President Nasser, always pragmatic, these advantages must have outweighed the consideration that he was acting in contradiction with his previous Arab policy.

I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives in Beirut, Amman, Damascus, Baghdad, Jedda, Bahrain, Kuwait, Tel Aviv, Washington and Paris, to the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, to the Political Office, Middle East Command, Aden, and to Mr. Cleary in Cyprus.

I have, &c.

H. BEELEY.

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Enclosure

Calendar of Events in 1963

January

- 1 Payment of £E. 4 million to the Suez Canal Company, being the final instalment of compensation for nationalisation of the Canal.
Opening of membership lists for the Arab Socialist Union.
- 7-12 President Nasser visited Aswan for the 3rd Anniversary of the inauguration of work on the High Dam.
- 8 Trade and Payments Agreement signed between the U.A.R. and Yemen, providing for an Egyptian interest-free loan of £E.1 million to Yemen.
- 11-14 Ali Sabri's visit to New Delhi to assist Mrs. Bandaranaike in putting the Colombo Proposals for a Sino-Indian settlement to the Indian Government.
- 14 Promulgation of Law No. 15 of 1963, prohibiting foreigners from owning agricultural land in the U.A.R.
- 16 Visit of the Soviet Minister of Power and signature of the final designs for the main part of the Aswan High Dam.
- 18 Dr. Baidhani arrived in Cairo, initially for discussions with the U.A.R. leaders, but eventually for rustication.
- 21 Closing date for applications to join the Arab Socialist Union.
- 22-25 Visit of Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan.

February

- 8 U.A.R. recognition of Colonel Aref's régime in Baghdad.
- 17 An I.B.R.D. mission delivered to the U.A.R. Government their draft report on the Egyptian economy.
- 21 President Nasser spoke on the theme "Praise be to God" for developments in the liberated Arab countries on the 5th Anniversary of the union between Egypt and Syria, in the presence of official and popular delegations from Baghdad.

March

- 5 An I.M.F. mission visited the U.A.R. to examine the progress of the 1962 stabilisation scheme.
- 8 Statement of U.A.R. support for the new Syrian Government following a *coup d'état* in Damascus.
- 9 Demonstrations in Cairo in favour of the new Syrian régime.
Members of the Presidential Council and Ministers set out to tour the provinces to explain the Arab Socialist Union to the people at various popular rallies.
- 10 U.A.R. informed the Secretary-General of the Arab League that the U.A.R. would resume full activity in the League.
- 11-13 Visit of an Iraqi delegation for discussions with President Nasser.
- 13 The Syrian Government refused to admit five ex-Ministers of the Union Government who had flown from Cairo to Damascus.
- 14-17 Discussions in Cairo between U.A.R., Syrian and Iraqi delegations.
- 18 Inauguration of the new Cairo International Airport, and of the Middle East Regional Isotope Centre.
Opening of the British Library.

March

- 19-21 Sudden visit of a Syrian delegation, led by the Prime Minister, for talks with President Nasser and other U.A.R. leaders.
- 21 Dr. Hatem's statement on German scientists working for the U.A.R.
- 30 The 39th Session of the Arab League Council opened in Cairo with all Member States represented.
- 31 Heikal's attack on the Baath leadership in Syria in an article in *Al Ahram* entitled "I object".

April

- 1 Agreement announced on a DM230 million infrastructure loan from West Germany.
- 1-10 Official visit of the Vice-President of Tanganyika.
- 4 Announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the U.A.R. and France.
Statement by German rocket experts about the peaceful nature of their work in the U.A.R.
- 4-11 Official visit of the Vice-President of India.
- 5-16 Visit of the German Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- 6-17 Final round of Tripartite Talks on Arab Union.
- 10 Agreement announced on the shape of the new Federal State.
- 11 Total active membership of the A.S.U. announced by the General Secretariat (4,875,000).
- 13 Cotton exporting firms previously 50 per cent nationalised were completely taken over by the Government.
- 17 Publication of the Cairo Manifesto, providing for a Federal Union between Egypt, Syria and Iraq.
- 19-28 Ali Sabri visited Moscow, Peking and Delhi in quest of a solution to the Sino-Indian conflict.
- 20-24 Visit of the President of the Board of Trade.
- 23 Mr. Erroff's call on President Nasser.
- 24 Arrival of a French Diplomatic Mission to resume representation in the U.A.R.
Signature of long-term trade and payments agreements between U.A.R. and Algeria, and of loan agreement by which the U.A.R. provided Algeria with a non-interest bearing credit of £E.10 million.
- 27 Announcement of the resumption of relations between the U.A.R. and Turkey.
- 30 U Thant reported to the Security Council that he had received the agreement of the Saudi, Yemen Republican and U.A.R. Governments to identical terms of disengagement in the Yemen.
President Nasser left for a State visit to Algeria and subsequent discussions with President Tito in Yugoslavia.
A United Kingdom firm secured a consultancy contract with the U.A.R. Government in connection with a proposal to build an atomic power station in the U.A.R.

May

- 4 Ferry disaster at Maghagha—over 150 drowned.
- 7-12 Visit of the Ballet Rambert.
- 11 The first batch of U.A.R. troops back from the Yemen arrived at Suez and Cairo.

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- May**
- 12 Polling day for the election of A.S.U. local committees.
 - 16 President Nasser returned from Yugoslavia.
 - 18 Flour and rice mills previously 50 per cent nationalised were fully nationalised.
 - 18-22 State visit by President Ben Bella.
 - 19 The second contingent of U.A.R. troops back from the Yemen arrived at Suez.
 - 20 Victory Parade in Cairo for the U.A.R. troops back from the Yemen. Speech by President Nasser reviewing U.A.R. intervention there.
 - 22-26 President Nasser attended the African Summit Meeting at Addis Ababa.
 - 31- Alexei Adzhubei, editor of *Pravda*, visited the U.A.R. with his wife and children at the invitation of Mlle. Hoda Abdel Nasser.
- June**
- 1-10 President Sallal of the Yemen visited the U.A.R.
 - 7-19 Field-Marshal Amer paid an official visit to the Soviet Union.
 - 10 Abu Simbel temples plan approved by the UNESCO Committee for the Preservation of the Nubian Monuments.
 - 16 President Sallal returned to Cairo after visits to Damascus and Baghdad. All pharmaceutical manufacturing companies were nationalised with the exception of a few companies with large foreign capital participation.
 - 18 Signature in Moscow of a U.A.R.-U.S.S.R. loan agreement.
 - 23 Former Vice-President Nixon received by President Nasser.
 - 24 President Sallal left for the Yemen accompanied by Field-Marshal Amer and Anwar el Sadat.
 - 26 The U.A.R. ratified the African Charter.
 - 28 Budget estimates for the financial year beginning July 1, 1963, were announced, entailing increased excise duties on sugar, alcoholic beverages and tobacco.
 - 29 The U.A.R. broke off relations with Portugal.
- July**
- 1 President Nasser received a British Labour Party delegation led by Mr. Denis Healey.
 - 4-8 Field-Marshal Amer visited Algiers for the Independence Anniversary celebrations.
 - 4-10 President Hamani Diori of Niger visited Cairo.
 - 6-15 A Mauritanian delegation headed by Dr. Babu Bakr visited the U.A.R.
 - 14 The U.A.R. signed a trade protocol with China.
 - 14-16 President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast paid a State visit to the U.A.R.
 - 18 A Nasserist *coup d'état* launched in Damascus against the Syrian Government and defeated with considerable casualties. Luay el Atassi was visiting President Nasser in Alexandria on the same day.
 - 21 El Nasr motor works formally opened by President Nasser.
 - 22 In his speech on the 11th Anniversary of the Revolution, President Nasser launched a violent attack on the Baath Government of Syria and declared that the U.A.R., though bound to Syria by the Tripartite Agreement of April 17, would not unite with the "Fascist government" in Damascus.
- July**
- 23 U.A.R. fighter aircraft were reported to have repelled four Israeli jets which intruded into U.A.R. air-space over Sinai; one Israeli aircraft was claimed to have been shot down.
 - 28 A "Comet" aircraft of U.A.A. was lost near Bombay.
 - 31 The U.A.R. Representative at the United Nations presented a note to the Secretary-General denying allegations in the British Press that poison gas was being used in the Yemen.
- August**
- 8 The U.A.R. signed the Nuclear Test Ban Agreement.
 - 11 President Nasser received a contingent of U.A.R. troops returning from the Yemen, in Alexandria, and made a major speech, attacking the Syrian Baath Party.
 - 12 Further large-scale nationalisation measures announced.
 - 15 President Sallal arrived in Cairo for hospital treatment.
 - 21-26 Official visit of President Aref and a large Iraqi Ministerial delegation.
 - 25 Announcement that the U.A.R. and North Korea had agreed to enter into diplomatic relations. Arrangements announced for the issue of Government bonds in compensation for assets nationalised since 1961, up to a maximum of £E.15,000 per person.
 - 28 At a Press conference, the Minister of Higher Education announced an expansion by 50 per cent of the number of students in U.A.R. universities and higher institutes.
 - 31 The 1962-63 cotton season concluded with 65 per cent of exports going to the Communist bloc.
- September**
- 1 Announcement that the U.A.R. and North Vietnam had agreed to exchange diplomatic representation.
 - 4 President Nasser received a further contingent of U.A.R. forces returning from Yemen at Port Said.
 - 4-10 Visit of Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker.
 - 5 Publication of U Thant's report on U.N.Y.O.M.
 - 7 Elections for Governorate Congresses of the Arab Socialist Union.
 - 9-19 Fortieth session of the Arab League Council. The "Palestine Entity", the Yemen and Oman were the main subjects discussed.
 - 10 President Sallal returned to Cairo from hospital in Alexandria. E.N.I. awarded an oil prospecting concession in the Rosetta-Suez Canal area.
 - 22 Dr. Baidhani arrested by the U.A.R. authorities. (He was released some two weeks later.)
 - 23 President Sallal left for the Yemen, to attend the celebrations of the 1st Anniversary of the Revolution.
 - 25 Phillips Petroleum Company of America awarded an oil prospecting concession in the Western Desert.
- October**
- Resettlement of the Nubians in the Kom Ombo area began.
 - Introduction of a type of collective farming in two governorates.

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October

- 1 President Nasser's Press conference (his first since 1956) for the Soviet-sponsored Third World Meeting of Journalists in Cairo.
Payment by the U.A.R. of £1,072,500 to the United Kingdom in accordance with the Exchange of Notes of August 1962.
- 7 *Ahram* reported the movement of two Syrian brigades to Iraq, and claimed that Her Majesty's Government and the I.P.C. had been consulted beforehand.
- 8 First estimate of the size of the new cotton crop proved a little disappointing.
- 9 In an article headlined "That is not the truth", *Ahram* denied that Cairo had been consulted about the new Syrian-Iraqi military union, or approved of it. The Press campaign against the Syrian and Iraqi Baathists was renewed. Ali Sabri's conference with newspaper editors televised and broadcast.
- 10-14 Official visit of Mrs. Bandaranaike.
- 11 Heikal published the text of President Nasser's message to President Aref, regretting that he was unable to visit Baghdad as previously agreed.
- 15 *Ahram* revealed that units of the U.A.R. Fleet had arrived in Algiers.
U.A.R. statement deploring fighting on the Algerian-Moroccan border and calling for "genuine Arab efforts" to prevent the situation deteriorating.
- 17 Dr. Kaissouni's Press conference on the results of his talks in Washington and the United Kingdom. Announcement of a drawing by the U.A.R. of \$16 million from the I.M.F.
- 18 The Cairo Press launched a campaign against Morocco, to which it ascribed responsibility for the fighting on the Algerian-Moroccan border.
- 19-20 Arab League Council extraordinary session on the Algerian-Moroccan dispute. The Council called for a cease-fire and set up a mediation committee to visit the two countries.
- 22 President Nasser greeted a further contingent of U.A.R. troops returning from the Yemen at Suez. He attacked the Baathists and Israel and expressed support for Algeria. On the internal front, he announced the impending formation of a Parliament.
- 23 The Pan American Oil Company was awarded a prospecting concession in the Western Desert.
- 30 U Thant's report on the Yemen stated that the disengagement agreement had not worked and announced his intention to terminate U.N.Y.O.M.

November

- 1 Heikal revealed in *Ahram* that the U.A.R. had sent units of the U.A.R. Fleet and an armoured force to assist the Algerians.

November

- 3 President Sallal arrived in Cairo for medical treatment, having suffered a heart attack on the previous day.
 - 4 Her Majesty's Government's contribution to the Abu Simbel Fund—£E.90,000—communicated to Dr. Hatem.
 - 4-7 State visit of the Emperor of Ethiopia.
 - 4-9 Visit of Willi Brandt as guest of the Governor of Cairo.
 - 5 Last minute agreement from the Saudis enabled U Thant to renew the mandate of U.N.Y.O.M. for a third period of two months.
 - 7 Further industrial nationalisation measures decreed, involving the complete take-over not only of many firms partly nationalised by the 1961 measures but also of many firms under sequestration or privately owned.
 - 9 The U.A.R. and UNESCO signed an agreement providing for the removal and re-erection of the Abu Simbel temples on the conclusion of a two-day conference in Cairo of contributors to the scheme. The Senate's attempt to stop United States aid to the U.A.R. provoked an outburst of anger in the Cairo Press.
 - 11 Complete nationalisation of 177 commercial and transport companies.
 - 16 Promulgation of a National Assembly Law and of a Decree providing for elections in February 1964.
Signature of a contract with a German firm for the work at Abu Simbel.
 - 18 U.A.R. Government statement, following the military *coup* in Baghdad, warning against external interference in Iraqi affairs.
 - 20-26 Further applications accepted for membership of the A.S.U.
 - 25- Visit of the Polish Foreign Minister.
 - Dec. 3 Visit of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Obote.
 - Dec. 2
- December
- 2 A "Yemeni" Il-14 aircraft landed in error at Lodar in the South Arabian Federation with 13 Egyptian officers and N.C.Os. on board.
 - 7-10 Meeting of the Arab Chiefs of Staff at the Arab League.
 - 10 President Nasser inaugurated the Conference of African Labour Ministers.
 - 13-14 President Nasser paid his first visit to Tunisia to participate in the celebration of the evacuation of Bizerta base by French forces.
 - 14-22 Visit of Chou En-lai, accompanied by Marshal Chen Yi and a large delegation.
 - 22-27 Official visit of the Prime Minister of Northern Nigeria.
 - 23 President Nasser's "Victory Day" speech at Port Said, in which, *inter alia*, he announced his support for anti-British elements in Aden and called for an Arab Summit meeting on the Jordan Waters issue.

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