

J

1942

31570

EGYPT and SUDAN

J 1690

APR 23

Registry Number } J 1690/38/15.  
**TELEGRAM FROM**  
**Sir M. Lampson (Cairo)**  
 No. 1033  
 Dated 9th April, 1942.  
 Received in Registry } 10th April, 1942.  
 J: Egypt and Sudan.

Ali Maher's objection to being sent to Sudan.  
 Repeated Khartoum No. 119. Refers to Cairo telegram 1026 (J 1672/38/16). Ali Maher is reported to have gone on hunger strike against being sent to Sudan. As there is opposition to this in Cabinet, Nahas has asked whether His Majesty's Ambassador would agree to his close detention in remote place in Egypt, in this case matter would be an Egyptian affair entirely. His Majesty's Ambassador said he desired the removal of Ali Maher but would not exert pressure on Nahas. Suggestions for dealing with problem were made and **DAKHA** Oasis was mentioned as being suitable provided he was guarded adequately.

Last Paper.

J1672

References.

*pp. in dept. copy of ref (Minutes) attached*

*See minutes on J1672*

*J. 10/4*

(Print.)

*See within amended copy.*

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

*6/11/4*

(Index.)

*11/2/4*

Next Paper.

J 1707

OUT FILE

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

(J.1446/38/16)

[Cypher]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

TO: EGYPT.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1008.

D. 9.05 p.m. 30th March, 1942.

30th March, 1942.

u u u u

IMPORTANT.

Your telegram No. 915 [ of March 27th: relations between King Farouk and his Government].

Egyptian Ambassador left on March 26th via Lisbon and West Africa, but if you still think it useful you may speak to him as from myself, on the lines which you propose.

(INDIV)

Registry  
No. June 28/4.

Draft.  
H.M. Ambassador  
Cairo

Tel no 1008  
March 30  
cypher  
INDIV/K

Warlabriet Dis<sup>n</sup>

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

Dep 9 Apr 9  
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Important

Yentel: no 913 [of March 27<sup>th</sup>: relations  
between King Farouk and his Government]  
Egyptian Ambassador has  
~~already~~ left on March 26<sup>th</sup> via  
Lisbon & West Africa, but if you  
still think it useful you may  
speak to him, as from myself, to  
ask him, on the lines which you propose,

81

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

[Cypher]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM: EGYPT.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson.  
No. 915.  
27th March, 1942.

D. 12.40 p.m. 27th March, 1942.  
R. 1.15 p.m. 27th March, 1942.

c c c e e

IMPORTANT.

You will have seen from my recent telegrams that relations between King Farouk and Prime Minister are not so far encouraging and that there seems every prospect that the present friction may get worse.

2. It has occurred to me that Egyptian Ambassador's departure might afford good opportunity to express to him your concern at these uneasy relations. Coming from you through Nachat (who is a King's man) such an intimation would have great authority.

3. If you think this a good idea I suggest for your consideration that you might tell the Ambassador that you have [?group omitted] with some anxiety apparent reluctance of King Farouk to co-operate fully with his Prime Minister and point out to him the danger of friction with a Prime Minister and Government who have just secured in the election the overwhelming support of the country.

4. Such a warning from so authoritative a quarter ought to have (essential) effect on King Farouk and tend at least to postpone a major clash which, serious at any time, would presumably be particularly inconvenient to us at a moment when military operations may be pending.

5. I think you will agree with me that every effort should be made to get the Palace on to a real sound basis. A friendly word from you through the Egyptian Ambassador would be very timely.

INDIV

J. 1446  
28 MAR 1942

28 MAR 1942  
RECEIVED  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LONDON

noticed

? food

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

[Cypher]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM: EGYPT.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson.  
No. 913.  
27th March, 1942.

D. 12.40 p.m. 27th March, 1942.  
R. 1.15 p.m. 27th March, 1942.

c c c c c

IMPORTANT.

You will have seen from my recent telegrams that relations between King Farouk and Prime Minister are not so far encouraging and that there seems every prospect that the present friction may get worse.

2. It has occurred to me that Egyptian Ambassador's departure might afford good opportunity to express to him your concern at these uneasy relations. Coming from you through Nachat (who is a King's man) such an intimation would have great authority.

3. If you think this a good idea I suggest for your consideration that you might tell the Ambassador that you have [?group omitted] with some anxiety apparent reluctance of King Farouk to co-operate fully with his Prime Minister and point out to him the danger of friction with a Prime Minister and Government who have just secured in the election the overwhelming support of the country.

4. Such a warning from so authoritative a quarter ought to have essential effect on King Farouk and tend at least to postpone a major clash which, serious at any time, would presumably be particularly inconvenient to us at a moment when military operations may be pending.

5. I think you will agree with me that every effort should be made to get the Palace on to a real sound basis. A friendly word from you through the Egyptian Ambassador would be very timely.

INDIV

*I fear -  
Foster  
I message could  
be sent to him  
via Nachat  
but this may be  
too much  
for  
I think, too, that it would  
tend to lose its force by being given to  
Nachat at second hand, but see on paper.  
W. 231*

J

J 1446

31570

EGYPT and SUDAN

28 MAR 1942

1942

Registry Number } J 1446/38/16

TELEGRAM FROM Sir M. Lampson, Cairo.

No.913.

Dated 27th March, 1942.

Received in Registry } 28th March, 1942.

Relations between King Farouk and Prime Minister.

Relations between King Farouk and Prime Minister are not encouraging and show signs of worsening. Suggests that Egyptian Ambassador should be informed of the anxiety felt by H.M. Government at the apparent reluctance of King Farouk to co-operate fully with the Prime Minister. Considers that a warning from so authoritative a source should at least postpone a clash which would be inconvenient when military operations may be pending.

J: Egypt and Sudan.

Last Paper.

J 1439

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel Cairo 1008 March 30<sup>th</sup>

(Minutes.)

Please see the Secretary of State's minute on copy attached.

Nahas in fact left on March 26<sup>th</sup> via Lisbon and West Africa. I fear that a message at second hand would lose weight; but I think that Sir M. Lampson might be given authority to give it if he sees fit. As Sir M. Lampson says, it may gain time: I fear that nothing will avert an ultimate clash between Nahas and the King, and I am not sure that it should be averted.

V. Verrier

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Tel Verrier

(Action completed.)

31/3

(Index)

13/5

Next Paper.

J 1448

OUT FILE

J.1429/38/16.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

[Cypher]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION

TO: EGYPT

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

No.1005.  
30th March, 1942.

D. 11.0 p.m. 30th March, 1942.

[ ] [ ] [ ]

Your telegram No.909 [of March 25th] paragraph 3 [Italians in the Palace].

In view of this development, what action do you advise with a view to Pullis' removal at a later stage? I should be interested to learn number of Italians who are now leaving the Palace.

INDIV.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry  
No. Jut 29/38/16.

Draft.

Sir M. Lampton  
H.M. Amb.  
Cairo.

Tel. No. 1005  
March 30  
cyphes  
INDIV/K

Was Cabinet Dis?

OUT FILE

Jut 29/38/16  
11 pm  
30.3

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Your telegram No. 909 [of March  
25<sup>th</sup>] paragraph 3<sup>rd</sup> [Italians in the  
Palace.]

In view of this development, what  
action do you advise with a view to  
Puth's removal at a later stage? I  
should be interested to learn number of  
Italians who are now leaving the  
Palace.

304



King Farouk objected strongly. Special police were his men and men of his family. Prime Minister argued this was wrong. All police [grp. undec. : ?and all] forces, Prime Minister himself, were His Majesty's police. As King refused to assent Prime Minister said that he would give His Majesty a few days to think it over. King Farouk's strong objection confirmed Nahas' suspicion that there was something fishy behind special police. In the course of his argument with His Majesty Prime Minister remarked that British would not like King's attitude and would think special police was something like the blue shirts of the King. It will be remembered that blue shirts were Wafdists [grp. undec.] military organisation to which the King objected during the last Wafdist Government.

7. Prime Minister then asked the King to grant titles of Pasha to members of his Cabinet on opening Parliament on March 30th. King said that he would like to think this over. He suggested it was a bit early to give these titles.

8. Prime Minister mentioned to King Farouk substance of his talk with Ali Maher. His Majesty made no comment.

9. Impression which Prime Minister brought back from the audience was that King Farouk felt himself stronger and was waiting for an opportunity to make trouble for the Government.

[INDIV.]

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.)

[Cypher.]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

From EGYPT.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

J 1429

Sir M. Lampson,  
No. 909.  
25th March, 1942.

D. 8.25 p.m., 26th March, 1942.  
R. 1.50 a.m., 27th March, 1942.

.....

IMPORTANT.

Amin brought account today of Prime Minister's deferred audience with King Farouk (see my telegram No. 872).

Nahas told King Farouk that he must be able to see His Majesty when necessary. King Farouk replied that Prime Minister was seeing him too often and asked why he could not communicate with him through Hassanein. Prime Minister pointed out that often there were matters of importance or delicacy which could not be transacted through intermediaries and he gave examples.

2. Prime Minister said that Palace staff were not advising His Majesty properly. He did not know who was at fault, Hassanein, Abdul Wahab or Italians.

3. Prime Minister then said that he was prepared to agree that Pulli and three Italians should remain provided they behaved properly, particularly third Italian about whom there were parliamentary questions. (See my telegram No. 870.) The other Italians must go in three days. King apparently acquiesced.

4. Prime Minister then raised the question of Swedish Minister's recall. (See my telegram No. 846.) King Farouk agreed.

5. Prime Minister then referred to question of nominated senators. He said that he would be prepared to accept a few men whom King particularly liked provided they were not dangerous. It will be remembered that dispute as to whether King or Government had final say in nomination of senators was one of the points which preceded the fall of Wafd Government in 1937. Without going into the principle Prime Minister's trend indicated that Government maintained the view that it was for the Government to select nominated senators. King Farouk did not reply to Prime Minister's suggestion.

6. His Excellency then said that he proposed to dissolve the special police under Taher. He maintained that this was a question within the power of the Cabinet but he mentioned it to the King because of Taher's family connexion with His Majesty.

King ...

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J 1279 6



J

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J 1429

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31570

EGYPT AND SUDAN

27 MAR 1942

Registry Number J 1429/38/16

TELEGRAM FROM Sir M. Lampson, Cairo.

No. 909.

Dated 25th March, 1942.

Received in Registry 27th March, 1942.

J: Egypt and Sudan.

Account of Nahas Pasha's audience with King Farouk. ✓  
 King Farouk complained that Prime Minister was seeing him too often and suggested that communications should be sent through Hassanein a suggestion which Nahas refused. The removal of Italians was discussed and King Farouk agreed to Swedish Minister's recall. Prime Minister said he was prepared to accept a few nominated senators. King Farouk raised objection to dissolution of special police. To the suggestion that titles should be granted to members of Cabinet His Majesty said it was rather early to grant them. Prime Minister gained impression that the King was awaiting an opportunity to cause trouble.

15/3/42

Last Paper.

J1377

References.

J1319/38/16  
J1330/9  
J1279/9.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Del Cairo 1005  
March 30<sup>th</sup>  
reminder sent on  
J1572.

J1319 with location diff. (Minutes) copy of minutes attached

The unsatisfactory feature of his telegram is the adjournment - since his so far as we know - of action by Nahas against Pelli. The former in fact seems to have now implemented the agreement which he concluded on this subject with the King - see Cairo telegram 793 and our telegram No. 888, at copies attached. In view of the latter telegram and Sir M. Lampson's telegram No. 870, Sir M. Lampson will no doubt advise, in due course, what the next step is to be. So far as the 8 remaining Italians are concerned, the Secretary of State recently enquired what were their numbers, and I think we might clear up this point. I attach a draft telegram.

As regards the last paragraph, I should not be the least surprised if King Farouk shortly tried to "pull a fast one."

Vicovene.  
28/3.

30.3.

31570

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

15/4

Jan 13/3

Next Paper.

J1459

See now J1572/38/16.