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

[CYPLER]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Killearn
No. 2445

D. 8.35 a.m. GMT November 23rd, 1944.
R. 10.55 a.m. BST November 25rd, 1944.

November 22nd, 1944.

b b b b

IMPORTANT

My immediately preceding telegram.

J 4218/31/16

J 4218

24 NOV 1944

Amr's record runs as follows.

2. Taher Pasha. Amr Pasha reminded His Majesty of this individual's bad record which was well known to His Majesty; indeed King Farouk had himself observed that Taher was playing a disloyal game. His Majesty was inclined at first to minimise Taher's importance; he was "a vain little man of little consequence". But finally His Majesty had agreed forthwith to issue instructions that Taher tender his resignation from his sporting organisations; and secretary of National Committee of Sports (Mohammed Pasha Hussein) had been given immediate orders that Taher should not be invited to gatherings such as that of November 20th and should be allowed "to die a natural death", preferably staying on his country estate.

3. Abbas Halim. Amr Pasha points out that this man was no friend of His Majesty and was a dangerous adventurer who wanted to gain popularity and influence at his expense. Amr Pasha produced some of the documents circulated by Abbas labour organisation and bearing his name. King Farouk observed that on 20th it was Abbas who had forced his way into the proximity of His Majesty so as to be photographed there. Net result of Amr Pasha's representations is that a) Hassan Pasha Rifaa has been instructed to put an end to Abbas Halim's activities; b) Mohammed Hussein Pasha (Secretary of National Committee of Sports) has been told to give orders that Abbas Halim shall not be invited to any further sports "meetings" etc.

4. Ali Maher. Amr Pasha (to whom I had also made representations regarding this individual's renewed political activities) had approached this question from Egyptian angle. He told His Majesty that Ali Maher had been unwisely airing his views in public and that it has been known for some time that he was flirting though so far unsuccessfully with the National Party. Amr Pasha continued that Ali Maher was artfully using His Majesty's name and giving his hearers the impression that he was in constant touch and enjoying the

confidence/

confidence of the King much to the embarrassment of the present Government. Here Amr Pasha had pointed out to His Majesty how inconsistent and dangerous it would be if it went round that the present Government, brought into office by His Majesty was, as Ali Maher was broadcasting, only a stepping stone to a Palace dictatorship headed by anti-British Ali Maher. King Farouk had replied emphatically dissociating himself from Ali Maher and had reminded Amr Pasha that he had sent Hassan Youssef Bey to tell Ali Maher that His Majesty advised him to take things easily and stay quietly at his estate. Ali Maher had been furious and had insinuated that this was "the [grp. undec.] for" Hassanein in order to have him shut up. But Hassan Youssef Bey had promptly produced King Farouk's wish, viz that Ali Maher should stay put. Hassan Youssef Bey had come back with the assurance from Ali Maher that he would comply with His Majesty's wishes. King Farouk had now given instructions that Ali Maher should be firmly told once more that His Majesty does not approve of his recent activities and that he should disappear to his country estate.

5. In order to be strictly correct with the Government Amr Pasha will inform the Prime Minister of King Farouk's action, which will be represented as being purely Egyptian [grp. undec.]. I informed Amr Pasha that in this I was in entire accord with him.

O.T.P.

41335

J 4079

17 NOV 1944

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

[The text of this telegram must first be paraphrased if communicated to persons outside British or United States Government service or if retransmitted in a cypher system other than O.T.P.]

[CYPHER]

WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Killearn.
No. 2365.

15th November 1944.

D. 1.45 p.m. (G.M.T.) 16th November
1944.

R. 3.45 p.m. (B.S.T.) 16th November
1944.

9 9 9 9

Since my return on November 12th I have had two long and most satisfactory talks with new Prime Minister.

2. His pro-British sentiments have never been in doubt. But he has reaffirmed them in the most positive manner, adding that our personal relations have always been excellent (which is true.)

3. He spoke very frankly about King Farouk. He genuinely believed His Majesty to be now anxious to play the game. He had impressed upon His Majesty the real importance of leaning upon his Prime Minister for political advice and maintaining close contact with him. His Majesty had professed to agree.

4. I told the Prime Minister of my audience with His Majesty yesterday and of my favourable impressions derived from it. At the same time I felt His Excellency would be well advised to keep his weather eye well open. He would remember how King Farouk had always played for complete domination. That was the traditional policy of the Palace which had been inherited by the son from his father. I did not doubt that the present occupant of the throne genuinely believed this to be in the best interest of the country. But in fact what was required was a just balance of control exercised by the throne and the Government in juxtaposition - and on occasion one acting as a brake upon the other. I need not remind His Excellency that we were convinced monarchists which we knew to be the best system of Government. That it carried with it an appreciation of their constitutional responsibilities by the Sovereign and the duly elected Government of the people. Admittedly Egypt still had a long way to go along the road to true democracy, but I put it to His Excellency that the above was the end to aim at. The Pasha said that he fully shared this view - as indeed his record proved - but for the moment it was a question of ways and means - indeed of commonsense. One of Mahas Pasha's mistakes had been his continual badgering of King Farouk over alleged constitutional points. He, Ahmed Maher, did not propose to do that - his idea was to deal with matters 'ad hoc' as they arose and to avoid as far as possible raising contentious issues with the Palace on fundamental questions which, if handled adroitly, should largely solve themselves.

With the Compliments of His
Under Secretary of State for Dominion
Affairs.

15
8 NOV 1944

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher message and unless it is marked O.T.P. (One Time Pad) the text must first be deciphered if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British and United States Government Services.)

CYPRER (TYPEX)

O.D.

INDEXED

FROM: D.O.

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)

AUSTRALIA "

NEW ZEALAND "

SOUTH AFRICA "

463 / 3f / 16

(Sent 11.00 p.m. 17th Nov., 1944.)

D. No. 1694 SECRET.

My telegram D. No. 1519 of 11th October. Egypt.

In conversation with United Kingdom Ambassador Cairo, who has recently returned from leave, Egyptian Prime Minister reaffirmed his pro-British sentiments, and spoke very frankly about King Farouk. Ahmed Maher stated that he genuinely believed that King Farouk was now anxious to play the game and to look to his Prime Minister for political advice. Lord Killeen reminded the Prime Minister that King Farouk had always endeavoured to achieve complete domination of the Government and that what was needed was a just balance of control exercised by the throne and the government in juxtaposition, on occasion the one acting as a brake on the other. Prime Minister agreed and said that his idea was to deal with matters ad hoc as they arose and to avoid as far as possible Nahan's mistake of raising with the Palace contentious issues which if handled adroitly should largely solve themselves.

Copy to:-

V.C.O.
F.O.

Sir E. Bridges.
Sir B. Newton.

Mr. H.W.A. Cross-Pennfather.
Mr. A.V. Coverley Price.

5. I wished His Excellency all luck in this admirable programme. For myself I looked forward with some relief to keeping as much as possible out of the arena.