

The Secretary said that "sovereignty" is a very difficult word.

The Foreign Minister interrupted to say that he was "not talking about books" and the definition of sovereignty which would be found in books.

The Secretary said that in a sense every treaty signed by a country infringes its sovereignty: no individual and no nation are ever entirely sovereign. He said that in the UK, where the US has bases, US technicians get US orders and this is as it should be.

The Foreign Minister warned against the danger of comparisons. England was England and Egypt was Egypt. The Egyptian people would never accept it. Already the Egyptian Government had "taken a great deal on itself" in agreeing to permit some British technicians to remain.

The Secretary cited as an example a British or a US firm located in Egypt. He was sure that such a firm could receive direct communications from its home office. He had in mind a firm like the Ford Motor Company. The Foreign Minister replied that no one could say that the Ford Motor Company is infringing Egyptian sovereignty.

The Secretary referred to the great quantities of stores in the base which were the property of the UK. He could not see how these stores could be useful if not under the instructions from their owner.

The Foreign Minister said that Egypt was prepared to accept the idea that the directives should come from London but it was important that they pass through Egyptian hands. The Egyptians could work out a system whereby they could be passed on promptly.

It being 4:55 the conference broke up to proceed to the Presidency where General Naguib was waiting.

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¹ This conversation took place in the office of the Prime Minister.