

The United States, concerned by the delay and by the lack of agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom, has: (1) urged the United Kingdom to arrive at a formula on the Sudan based on an acceptance of the King's title within the framework of self-determination by the Sudanese; (2) urged the United Kingdom to agree to token withdrawal of troops from the Canal Zone even though agreement on the number of forces to be allocated to SACME might not have been reached; (3) suggested that Maher refrain from making extreme public statements; and (4) indicated willingness to enter five-power discussions if and when the Egyptians so desire.

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*Memorandum by the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Berry) to the Secretary of State*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1952.

Subject: Significance of Change in Egyptian Government.

It is understood that at the time the Government of Nahas Pasha was dismissed on January 27 following the riots in Cairo, the King desired to appoint Neguib Hilali Pasha as Prime Minister. Hilali Pasha had been expelled from the Wafd in November 1951 and was considered a strong opponent of corruption and graft in the Government. However, Hilali Pasha would not agree to form a Cabinet until he could get some idea of what the British intended to offer in connection with Anglo-Egyptian negotiations. Since time did not allow this, the King agreed to appoint Ali Maher Pasha, but with misgivings.

Since assuming office on January 27, Ali Maher Pasha has been under increasing pressure from the Palace and from those bitterly opposed to the Wafd to take a strong hand against the Wafd and the perpetrators of the January 26 riots. Ali Maher Pasha has resisted this pressure and has endeavored to be all things to all people. He would not suspend Parliament as the King desired as he felt he could work better with the support of the Wafd. The King became increasingly annoyed with Ali Maher's tactics and arrangements were made to replace Maher. On March 1, apparently on inspiration of the Palace, several newspapers close to Hilali and the Palace published the news that the predominantly Wafd Parliament had been suspended for thirty days. Ali Maher immediately