

No. 989

774.00/7-252 Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt*¹

SECRET NIACT

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1952—11:05 a. m.

8. 1. Brit Emb last night gave Dept substance msg from FonOff to Brit Chargé Alexandria instructing him consult with you re possible action by US and UK to salvage situation brought about by Hilali resignation and apparent confusion resulting from inability Sirry or Barakat form new Govt.² Possible courses action suggested were:

a. Warning to Sirry or Barakat that they shld have nothing to do with formation new Govt;

b. Reinforcing Maraghi's refusal to join new Govt;

c. Approach to Afifi to persuade him convince King that his (Afifi's) inevitable resignation under present circumstances together with new Govt as presently proposed wld "reduce the chances of successful negots with UK to vanishing pt."

2. In addition above Brit Chargé Alexandria was instructed sound you out on possibility your approaching King and "without mincing words" telling King some "home truths", particularly re hopeless situation if Andraos and Tabet remain in palace.

3. Brit Emb Wash said FonOff most anxious appropriate instrs be sent you (presumably to see King) and quoted FonOff as fol: "It is essential that we shld work together at this critical juncture in doing everything we can to prevent the elimination of the only sound elements in Egypt polit life by this change of Govt and particularly elimination of Hafez Afifi from the Palace."

4. Emb London also reported last night that Eden had sent Strang to see Gifford and that Strang expressed Eden's deep concern and genuine apprehension re situation which might develop with return to power of corrupt palace elements and Wafd. Eden hoped we might be able assist.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 34. Drafted by Stabler and approved by Byrsoe.

² Ambassador Caffery on June 28 reported in telegram 2303, not printed, that Prime Minister Neguib Hilali Pasha had unequivocally resigned and refused King Farouk's request to reconsider his action. (774.13/6-2852)

In subsequent telegrams, the Ambassador reported extensively upon the confusion and intrigue surrounding the efforts of Farouk and Egypt's politicians to create a new Cabinet. As of the evening of July 1, Caffery informed the Department in telegram 12 from Cairo, not printed, the King's choice for Prime Minister, Hussein Sirry Pasha, had abandoned his efforts to form a Cabinet and Farouk had called upon Barakat Pasha to make such an effort. (774.13/7-152)

Documentation regarding the Embassy's coverage of this crisis is in Department of State files 774.00, 774.02, and 774.13.