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*Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade) to the Acting Secretary of State*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 3, 1952.

Subject: Change of Government in Egypt

The Embassy in Cairo has now confirmed that Hussein Sirry Pasha, reported to be a "King's man" by conviction, has formed a new government with himself as Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of War and Marine. The rest of the Cabinet is composed of pro-Palace independents and technicians. The new Minister of the Interior, Mohammed Hashem Pasha, is Sirry Pasha's son-in-law and thus control of this important post really rests with the Prime Minister. The most disturbing aspect of the new Cabinet is the appointment of Kerim Tabet Pasha as Minister of State in charge of relations between the Government and the Palace. Tabet Pasha, a Lebanese by origin, is a disreputable adventurer whom, off and on, exercises a considerable and unfortunate influence on the King. It is reported that Sirry Pasha felt he could control Tabet better in the government than outside. While the government does not include any members of the Wafd Party it is known that the Prime Minister is closely associated with those who do have strong Wafd inclinations.

Now that the smoke has cleared somewhat, it is possible to assess the reasons for this change of government. Although we had received numerous reports of behind-the-scenes activity to force Hilali Pasha out, it was not expected that matters would come to a head before the fall when elections are scheduled. However, it appears that Kerim Tabet Pasha, Ahmed Abboud Pasha (one of the wealthiest men in Egypt and the only Egyptian for whom we have approved an Ex-Im Bank loan), and Elias Androas Pasha, a member of the Palace inner clique, looked with increasing dismay on the possibility that Hilali Pasha might carry through his purge program. Since the purge would have implicated these men, they

Caffery struck a note of optimism about the last minute appointment of Sirry Pasha as Prime Minister, saying that although the Cabinet was filled with second-rate politicians and technicians, Sirry Pasha was capable and that Caffery's personal relations with him were such that he thought he could probably exercise a beneficial influence over Sirry's actions. (774.00/7-352)

¹This memorandum was drafted by Stabler.