

tians insisting on recognition of the title and the British regretting they cannot do so without Sudanese approval.

If Sirry cannot make any progress with the British in the near future or if the King decides not to hold elections, he will probably go the way of Ali Maher Pasha and Hilali Pasha. While it is too early to forecast with any accuracy who the next incumbent might be, the name of Mortada el Maraghi Pasha, Minister of the Interior and of War and Marine under the last Cabinet, is frequently mentioned. Ambassador Caffery reports that Maraghi is the King's "last ace in the hole".

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 14, 1952.

Subject: Anglo-Egyptian Question: Proposed Reply to the British Message of July 7

*Background:*

On June 29, the Government of Hilali Pasha resigned—ostensibly because of the activities of certain unsavory Palace intriguers but more probably because of Hilali's failure to make progress with the British. In this connection, the British assessment of the reasons for Hilali's downfall differ from ours in that they consider failure to make progress on the Anglo-Egyptian problem was purely secondary.

As a result of Hilali's fall the British Government suddenly became greatly exercised and besought our intervention in an attempt to retain Hilali. Both the Department and Ambassador Caffery did not favor such intervention in the belief that it would be dangerous as well as ineffective. The question was settled, however, when Sirry Pasha came into power and no reply to the British was necessary.

On July 7 the British Embassy handed the Department a paper (Tab A)<sup>1</sup> outlining Mr. Eden's deep concern over the situation in Egypt and requesting the United States to tell the King that "his present insistence on the question of the title can only lead to disaster for him and for Egypt." The United Kingdom has also asked us to endeavor to bring about the installation of a government will-

<sup>1</sup> Not printed; Tab A is telegram 41 to Cairo, July 8. (641.74/7-852)