

There are no indications as yet as to who will be called upon to be the new prime minister. <sup>2</sup>

*Sirry's Program*

Prior to his resignation, Sirry Pasha in an interview with UP had outlined his Government's program as including:

- (1) Resumption of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations;
- (2) Concentration on the country's economic problems;
- (3) Non-violation of the Constitution and hence "100 per cent free" elections; and
- (4) Continuation of martial law "as long as necessary."

Our Embassy comments that while Sirry was noncommittal or evasive in handling questions on Egypt's participation in Middle East defense, he did not respond to such questions with the usual restatement of national aims as a precondition for Egyptian participation.

<sup>2</sup> In telegrams 126 and 129 from Cairo, July 21, neither printed, Ambassador Caffery reported that, to the amazement of all in Cairo, Hilali Pasha announced his willingness to become Prime Minister once again. (774.00/7-2152)

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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* <sup>1</sup>

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 21, 1952.

Subject: Anglo-Egyptian Problem: Proposed New Approach <sup>2</sup>

*Discussion*

As in 1946, at the time of Bevin-Sidky negotiations, the Sudan is still the principal stumbling block to negotiations on future arrangements for the Suez Canal Base. <sup>3</sup> It is clear that our informal attempt to persuade the British Government to move from its extreme position on the Sudan have not succeeded. Our somewhat less strenuous efforts vis-à-vis Egypt have also not succeeded. It is our judgment that continuance of the present stalemate would lead to riots and disorders which the Egyptian authorities might not be

<sup>1</sup> Drafted by Stabler.

<sup>2</sup> The following handwritten remark by the Secretary of State appears at the top of the memorandum: "This has to be reconsidered now. DA"

<sup>3</sup> For documentation regarding the Bevin-Sidky negotiations, see *Foreign Relations, 1946*, vol. VII, pp. 69-78.