

vated by several petty disagreements, Naguib submitted resignation three days ago but continued exercise functions. RCC made repeated efforts mollify him but offered no major concessions.

Naguib seems to have deliberately chosen most inopportune moment to face RCC with demands (just before inauguration Sudanese Parliament and at delicate stage Anglo-Egyptian talks) apparently in belief RCC would not dare accept his resignation. It is typical of RCC officers that they unanimously decided to do so, in full awareness of inevitable world-wide repercussions, rather than bow to pressure on what they consider vital question of principle. Decision was approved by Cabinet and by entire group of "free officers". Trouble therefore not expected from Armed Forces, nor is it likely there will be difficulties at this juncture from organized populace despite Naguib's personal popularity.

CAFFERY

 No. 1291

774.0072-2654: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

CAIRO, February 26, 1954—2 p. m.

963. Line taken in Department's helpful statement (Deptel 988)² borne out by Salah Salim at press conference last night. Salim specifically made points:

- (1) No change in foreign policy as result Naguib departure.
- (2) Policy made by RCC and not determined by any one man.

Tone of his remarks suggested RCC more anxious than ever settle Suez issue and concerned lest British seize on dispute with Naguib as reason for further delay. Salim added that once Suez question settled "transition period" could rapidly be brought to close and parliamentary life restored.

In piecing together accumulated evidence, I believe following conclusions are justified:

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 315 and unnumbered to Paris, Rome, the Arab capitals, Tripoli, and Khartoum.

² In telegram 988, Feb. 25, not printed, the Department informed the Embassy that it had issued a statement saying that the events in Egypt were unrelated to Egypt's international policies, and that the question of the Suez negotiations was not involved in those domestic developments surrounding the fall of Naguib. (641.74/2-2554)