

No. 1304

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*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹SECRET
No. 2262

CAIRO, March 23, 1954.

Subject: Conversation Between Lt. Col. Gamal Abd Al Nasir and Mr. Parker T. Hart

On Sunday March 21 Mr. Parker T. Hart, Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State, accompanied by Mr. William Lakeland of this Embassy, called upon Lt. Col. Gamal Abd Al Nasir at his home. The principal points covered in more than two hours conversation are reviewed below.

The most important aspect of Nasir's remarks was the impression which he gave that the RCC has no intention of yielding tamely to its opponents. He strongly implied that General Naguib is the RCC's most difficult problem and gave the impression that a definitive show-down with Naguib at some future date is probably inevitable. Nasir also made it clear that he did not intend to sit by and allow opposition elements to undo what the present regime has accomplished.

The conversation opened with some discussion of the Sudan situation in which Mr. Hart gave a brief account of his impressions gained during a quick visit to Khartoum. Colonel Nasir indicated his agreement with the proposition that measures which might lead to increased tension in the Sudan should be avoided. He commented that the Sudanese Prime Minister is an "intelligent man" and implied that he did not believe the Sudanese Government would try to disturb the balance in the Governor-General's Commission.

Turning to the Egyptian situation, Nasir embarked upon a rather confused and intemperate dissertation, the principal theses of which were:

1) that the Wafdists, Communists and Muslim Brothers are attempting to exploit the current situation and are making a common cause in vociferously espousing "freedom and democracy" in the hope of displacing the revolutionary regime,

2) that communism is making great headway in Egypt through the effectiveness of Soviet propaganda activity and the ineptitude of American policy in the Near East. He asserted that he himself did not know what the United States policy in this area really was but that the United States was losing out because it "always sides with Britain".

¹ Copies of this despatch were sent to London and Khartoum.