

saying that there will be no elections, Nasir was certainly trying to give the impression that he anticipated the development of a situation which would permit the Revolution to reassert itself in a strong fashion and resume its program of purification and reform. He asserted that "in a month or so", after there had been a "pulling up of the reins", an immediate settlement involving evacuation of British forces from Egypt would be very desirable. It was clear, however, that he felt that a clarification of the internal situation must precede any final settlement with the British.

Comment:

It was clear that Nasir is heavily pre-occupied with the domestic political battle which he faces and is not clear in his own mind as to just what course of action to adopt. His remarks contained even more than the usual number of inconsistencies encountered in Egyptian thinking. His transparent tactic in raising the communist bug-bear during the early part of the conversation was obviously mistakenly designed to impress the visitor from Washington but must also to some extent be explained by Nasir's deep personal sense of disillusionment at the failure of the United States to extend to Egypt the aid which he believes Egypt was given every reason to expect.

Nasir was also probably trying to impress Mr. Hart with the strength of his own position in his preview of future internal developments. It must not be forgotten, however, that Nasir is a man of boldness and cunning and not one to be easily discouraged by a setback. He is at present devoting most of his attention to tightening his control on the Armed Forces and has always been a strong believer in the importance of the element of surprise.

JEFFERSON CAFFERY

No. 1305

77400/3-2554: Telegram

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

CAIRO, March 25, 1954.

1167. Following lengthy meeting with Naguib presiding, RCC announced today following decisions:

1. Political parties will be permitted organize immediately.
2. RCC will not form political party.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 386 and unnumbered to the Arab capitals, Tel Aviv, Tripoli, and Khartoum.