

Transport workers strike in favor RCC spreading. Now includes railway, tram and bus workers in Cairo. Press says group trade union leaders have issued statement demanding following:

1. No political parties.
2. Maintenance RCC until evacuation achieved.
3. Creation body representing syndicates, trade unions and all forms of organizations to act as national assembly to which all RCC decisions must be submitted.
4. No electoral campaign until evacuation achieved.

According press civilian ministers withdrew their resignations and expressed support RCC.

Increasingly large crowds including students gathering this morning in Abdin Square. Some pro-Naguib, more pro-RCC. Being kept apart by security forces. Other smaller groups marching in peaceful demonstrations about town. Security forces appear to have situation under control.

CAFFERY

No. 1310

774.00/3-2854: Telegram

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

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1189. Reliable Egyptian source close to RCC states that Air Force officers held meeting three days ago under chairmanship Sidqi, Air Force Chief of Staff (non-free officers) at which decision taken to reject decisions reported Embtel 1167 and insist on RCC remaining. All Air Force units reportedly contacted and decisions supported by all officers. Navy subsequently followed suit. Beginning with infantry, all branches of Army yesterday adopted same decisions (five pro-Khaled Muheiddin cavalry officers reportedly abstained on decision and have been ordered by fellow cavalry officers to remain at home).

Deputations of officers representing all branches armed forces last night presented decisions to Nasir and to Naguib on his return from Alexandria. In face of these decisions by armed forces and mounting demonstrations of support for RCC, Naguib went about midnight to King Saud to seek his protection and, if necessary, refuge in Saudi Arabia.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 896, to Amman as telegram 77, to Baghdad as telegram 51, to Beirut as telegram 88, to Damascus as telegram 41, to Jidda as telegram 83, and unnumbered to Paris, Bonn, Rome, and Valletta.