

As reported mytel 1188, King Saud called in Nasir with view to mediating dispute. Nasir reviewed in detail history Naguib-RCC relationship and Naguib reportedly stated he was willing to do whatever RCC desired.

RCC has been meeting at GHQ this morning and will meet with Naguib shortly. No indication yet what decision will be taken in Naguib's regard.

Al Mizri today openly advocates Wafd-Communist-Ikhwan front. Ikhwan leader Hodeibi spent several hours with Nasir last night and called on Naguib this morning.

CAFFERY

No. 1311

774.00/3-2854: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY CAIRO, March 28, 1954—midnight.

1195. Regarding Embassy telegram 1189. Morning RCC meeting merged into joint session with Cabinet which continued until 10:30 p. m.

Large demonstrations broke up into smaller groups largely pro-RCC which continued peaceful demonstrations throughout day and evening. One group about one thousand stoned building Wafd daily newspaper *Al Mizri*. Army police protection provided papers request. No casualties.

Continuing build-up popular support for RCC, ESB has throughout factually and unemotionally announced support of varied elements. Students Ibrahim and Cairo universities announced to have supported stand taken by labor syndicate leaders (see reference telegram). Police officers decided take orders only from RCC. Such announcements interspersed with reports of thousands of telegrams insisting RCC remain. Early afternoon Nasir and Saleh Salem made radio appeals for calm.

At one point Foreign Military Attaché Liaison Officer said, RCC would remain until its aims realized and that meeting discussed type constituent assembly (elective or appointive).

At 7:30 p. m. Saleh Salem requested crowds go home quietly assuring them satisfactory decisions would be taken tonight and RCC would not abandon people.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 397, to Amman as telegram 78, to Baghdad as telegram 52, to Beirut as telegram 89, to Damascus as telegram 42, to Jidda as telegram 34, and unnumbered to Paris, Bonn, Rome, and Valletta.