

Egyptian Crisis Reviewed In Western Big 3 Capitals

EDITOR'S NOTE: Is President Nasser in a stronger or weaker position today than before the invasion of Egypt? Is the overall outlook for international operation of the Suez Canal better or worse? Has Russia's position improved or worsened in the Middle East, and what has the British-French push into Egypt meant to the West? Three experienced Associated Press correspondents here summarize the opinions of officials and observers in the capitals of the Western Big Three.

By JACK SMITH
LONDON—The British-French invasion of Egypt will change the course of history, but only time can show just how. Some new factors on the scene have still to be evaluated. That is the general belief in London.

On the face of it, the Russians now look stronger in the Middle East. The Arab world has seen two Western powers, long distrusted by many Arabs, invade a leading Arab state. And Russia has pictured itself as the big brother whose threats brought the attack to a quick halt.

But most Arab leaders have an ingrained hatred of communism. And some have kept a wary eye on Gamal Abdel Nasser, the dynamic young Egyptian president who dreams of leading an Arab empire. Will these powerful men accept the British claim that the invasion uncovered a Red plot to win control of the Middle East with Nasser as a tool? As the closure of the Suez Canal and the destruction of oil pipelines eats into their revenues, will they look longingly for better trade and better relations with their traditional Western customers?

Nasser on the surface seems stronger. In Arab eyes, he stood up to Western invaders and their attack was called off. But he also lost face by losing the Gaza Strip to an Israeli army. If Arab leaders can be convinced that to further his own political ambitions he exposed the entire Middle East to the threat of Soviet domination, his prestige could wither and die.

HOPE FOR APPROVAL
Has the attack weakened British ties with the free world, including members of the Commonwealth? Some opinion in the United States and the Asian Commonwealth members—India, Pakistan and Ceylon—reacted sharply against the assault. But British leaders hope the decision to attack soon will be accepted as fully justified. There have already been signs of some shift of American opinion.

EGYPTIAN
In some quarters, however, doubts persist that Sir Anthony Eden can survive long as prime minister. Even if his policies bear fruit, even if they lead to a general settlement in the Middle

East and satisfactory arrangements for international control of the canal. Eden will still be seen as a man who took a grave and dangerous step without consulting his American allies or his friends in the Commonwealth. Would a successful outcome restore the confidence that allied statesmen have lost in the prime minister? But there is growing optimism in British official circles that the free world ultimately will accept the British-French policy as a wise one.

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON — The British-French invasion of Egypt is considered in United States official quarters to have produced results little short of disastrous. Whether the results prove to be a total disaster, they say, depends on the final outcome, which is not yet clear.

The operation, in the American view, was designed to serve two major purposes and was based on at least one major assumption. The purposes were (1) to regain physical control of the Suez Canal and (2) to undermine Egyptian President Nasser. The assumption was that the operation could be carried off without direct military intervention by the Soviet Union. Probably Britain and France also assumed that when the chips were down, they would have the political support at least the passive approval of Washington.

As seen here, this now is the situation:

DIDN'T GAIN GOAL
Britain and France have not gained physical control of the canal. Under threat of Soviet intervention, with military force and under strong demands from the United Nations for a cease-fire, they had to halt their military operations within hours after the troops landed.

Nasser may not be stronger than he was before British and French planes began bombing his airfields and military installations, but there is no evidence that he is weaker. He is in the position of the leader of a relatively weak country who could not adequately defend his territory by direct military action, but who rallied a tremendous segment of world public opinion to his side. Even the U.S. government, which had been basically anti-Nasser for several months, felt compelled to denounce the attack on Egypt by the U.S.'s closest allies.

American official disapproval of the invasion, coupled with the action itself, split the Western alliance over an issue of vital importance, a result from which only the Soviet Union stands to profit.

SOVIETS GET OPENING
Russia itself has been given a new opportunity for wooing Arab

goodwill and for gaining a military foothold in the area, through the much-talked-of dispatch of "volunteers" to assist Egypt. Furthermore, the whole structure of political relationships in the area, including the anti-Communist Baghdad Pact anchored on Iraq and Turkey, with Britain as the strongest member, has been badly shaken and in some degree wrecked by the attack on Egypt.

Officials here are reluctant to prophesy how the situation may eventually be resolved or the extent to which fundamental Western interests in the oil of the Middle East, in strategic air bases throughout the Arab world and in the future of the Suez Canal can be adequately protected. The one positive gain which could come out of the Middle East crisis is the strengthening of the UN if it averts a much greater war and takes effective steps for permanent settlement of Middle Eastern problems.

By JOSEPH E. DYNAN
PARIS—Leading French politicians believe President Nasser stands in a slightly stronger position today than before the British-French invasion of Egypt.

The main reason, from a French point of view, is that the two Western allies failed to achieve their chief objective: To damage the prestige of the Egyptian president enough to cost him all influence in the Arab world and topple him, from power at home.

This has been France's overriding purpose from the beginning. The French blame Nasser and his propaganda for most of their troubles in North Africa. The Suez operation was viewed as a shortcut to ending the revolt in Algeria.

NASSER HOLDS ON
But Nasser still is in power in Cairo, despite all that the Allies and the Israelis threw at him. On the other hand, he has suffered a crushing military reverse in the Sinai Peninsula, he no longer has exclusive control of the Suez Canal, and he has been charged with being the spearhead for Soviet penetration into the Middle East.

Because of the presence of the UN police force in Egypt and the General Assembly resolutions this month, the French feel there now is a greater chance that the canal eventually will be put under international control. They base this on the clause in the police force resolution providing that one function of this force will be to see that the canal is reopened and maintained for all countries on equal terms.

NEED MORE SCHOLARS
More religious scholars in social science fields were needed so the Catholic church could accommodate itself to rapidly changing economic and social conditions. Catholic scholars should take a

AIDS BUILDING
Cement plants in Canada had an output in 1955 of more than 25,000,000 barrels, nearly four times the 1945 total.

Commerce Chamber Opposes Hospital Insurance Scheme

OTTAWA (CP)—The Canadian Chamber of Commerce today told Prime Minister St. Laurent it is opposed to the federal government's hospital insurance proposals.

"Such a plan would lead inevitably to compulsory health insurance of a comprehensive nature and to state medicine," the chamber said in its annual submission to the cabinet.

Any financial assistance provided by the federal government should be directed to the areas in which the individual is generally unable to help himself, to the indigent, the aged, the chronically ill and to those who suffer catastrophic medical expenses."

The chamber, representing more than 750 boards of trade and chambers of commerce, was referring to federal proposals to share with the provinces the costs of a hospital insurance plan as the first step toward a wider health insurance program.

Its comments on the hospital insurance plan highlighted a wide-ranging, 39-page brief in which the chamber said corporation and personal income taxes are too high and urged that active government participation in business and international trade be kept to a minimum.

NO "MUST" MEDICINE
"The chamber is opposed to any

form of compulsory health insurance or state medicine," it said. "So-called 'free' health services would result in vastly increased demands upon them."

It was inevitable that the cost of a compulsory, comprehensive national health program would be substantially more than present health expenditures in Canada.

"In a free society the individual has the primary responsibility to make provision for and pay the cost of medical care for himself. The growth of voluntary prepaid medical care plans was impressive and they should be encouraged with aid from employers. The government should explore ways of helping in cases of 'catastrophic' medical costs, including income tax alleviation."

On business and trade, the chamber said it is "opposed to all state interventions and controls beyond those clearly necessary to protect some accurately defined public interest."

Government activities should not involve detailed participation in the decisions of private business or competition by state agencies with private enterprise."

In foreign trade there should be a minimum of government buying and selling of commodities.

Red Party May Never Recover, Is Suggestion

Interpreting the New By J.M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst
Every day produces new evidence that the Soviet Union, by using force to crush the Hungarian revolution, has done something from which communism may never completely recover.

Now Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia has added his voice to the wave of recrimination sweeping through the various national Communist parties in Europe.

He terms the decision to call in Russian troops a "fatal error." And indeed it may be, judging from resignations by party leaders throughout Europe.

PARTIES SPLITTING
The great mass parties of Italy and France are split as never before. The small parties of other non-Communist countries stand convicted of membership in an organization which, instead of being the friend of the world's workers, is their executioner.

Tito, of course, has his own so-called Communist party, not a part of international communism. Indeed, all of his words have to be judged against a background of his competition with Russia for ascendancy in the Middle European states.

He does testify, however, that he is on the side of the Kremlin's more liberal group, headed by party secretary Khrushchev, while the Stalinists, who get Tito's blame for the action in Hungary, are headed by Molotov.

UPHOLDS KHRUSHCHEV
From the world standpoint, it was Russia, not a mere clique, which acted in Hungary, and it is Russia that stands convicted. Tito says the Kremlin will have to return to the Khrushchev tenet of freedom for other countries to approach communism by their own methods.

He mentions the fact that, prior to the Russian intervention of Nov

Stresses Plight Of Ont. Farmers

JANETVILLE, Ont. (CP)—CCF leader Donald C. MacDonald of Ontario said Tuesday night the federal and Ontario governments are trying to wink away the economic plight of farmers.

He told a farm-labor meeting in this village 25 miles northeast of Oshawa that the ultimate solution of agricultural problems lies in "governments which will put the interests of such large groups as labor and farm ahead of the selfish demands of the business world."

No one in federal or Ontario government circles seems to care whether a solution is found, he said.

The federal government was "blindly ignoring" the fact that farm income dropped 30 per cent between 1951 and 1955. The Ontario Progressive Conservative government also was ignoring re-

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Page 10, The Guardian Thursday, Nov. 22, 1956

quests for investigations into farmers' problems. A summary of his speech was released to the press in advance of delivery.

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