THE STORY OF ARAB UNITY, THE BILATERAL PACT, AND THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT.

By: Col, Anwar El-Sadat.

I shall write with as much frankness as the pains the Arab peoples have suffered. I want to remind the Arabs:

How Palestine was lost within the sight and hearing of the Arab League; how Palestine was lost under the title of Arab Unity, how the seven Arab armies suffered reverses at the hands of Zionist gangs.

Finally, is it not better for us and for our good peoples that some of the Arabs should unite to face the common danger by means of a bilateral agreement or agreements than to advocate Arab unity while in reality we are kindling the fire of discord and feuds?

The Bilateral Syro-Egyptian pact has at last been concluded with the result that a wave of jubilation swept over the Arab countries, causing bewilderment to East and West and striking terror into the heart of Israel.

The Arabs have felt for the first time in a considerable period some degree of optimism at the future. They have realised for the first time that the will of their peoples has been translated into a pure Arab pact absolutely free from domination emanating from participation in a foreign pact or imperialist influence.

Britain and France soon expressed their objection to the pact. This is another victory for the Arabs and a further assurance that it represents all that Arab aspirations and ideals stand for.

Amid universal rejoicing, an Arab warning voice was raised. It asserted that the pact would cause discord among the Arabs, pointing out that if it were necessary to conclude agreements then such agreements should be adhered to by all Arab states so that Arab unity might be safeguarded.

The assertion was ostensibly prompted by a fraternal sentiment but in fact, it was inspired by a long-standing tragedy first enacted by Eden in the House of Commons when, in 1942, he urged the creation of the League of Arab States.

The Complete Story.

I shall be as frank as the Arab peoples have suffered, being actuated by the policy of the Revolution based on avoiding hypocrisy or misleading trends.

What then is the story of the Arab League?

The story began, as already stated, by a declaration by Eden in the House of Commons in 1942. The League was established as a result of that declaration.

At that time all the Arab States were under some kind of British tutelage.
15th November, 1955

Discord.

The policy of the Arab states at that time was aimed at conforming with the policies of both Britain and France. That is why Britain blessed the League while France also supported it.

The League went forward along that path. Nobody can deny that it rendered certain services to the Arabs but that was effected within the narrowest limits.

World War II then came to an end and the Arab peoples claimed freedom and liberation from imperialist domination and influence.

Some governments responded to the Nationalist claims while others faltered. Discord then came about within the framework of the League. This state of affairs did not, however, prevent the League from passing unanimous resolutions.

Here I must pause a little before I say that this deceptive farce was enacted on the stage of the Arab people by the ostensibly unanimous decisions which concealed real discord. Disasters befell the Arab peoples under guises and slogans of "Arab unity" and "Arab League", the same slogans now causing genuine enthusiasm following the conclusion of the Syro-Egyptian pact.

The Extraordinary Struggle.

The Arab League then went astray when it pursued a policy aimed at misleading the Arab peoples.

This went on until the Palestine war broke out.

Despite frequent and spectacular Arab League meetings, the member states were never really in perfect agreement. Their interest seemed at variance and their viewpoints appeared to be conflicting.

Then an extraordinary struggle took place. There was a struggle against Israel but there was also a hidden conflict among the Arab states themselves. Hence, imperialism found the loopholes through which it succeeded in achieving its purposes.

The Revolution.

Then came Egypt's revolution and we told the Arabs that we shall not resort to hypocrisy, nor shall we deceive or mislead them.

We pointed out that the inter-Arab Joint Security Pact should be put into real effect forthwith if we were to live in peace and security. We started our contacts, but discovered, to our utter disappointment, that there could not be any consensus of opinion. Some Arab statesmen expressed the belief that Arab safety could be assured only through absolute dependence on a certain foreign power. There were several Arab meetings but the Security Pact remained mere ink on paper.

The Leader Of The Revolution Speaks Out.

Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser spoke out. He said that if that state of affairs were to continue, Israel was bound to gain the initiative. He asked if they wanted to wait until the disaster befell them. He wondered whether they wanted to remain inactive until Israel actually pursued its expansionist policy.

Threats.

Israel felt that the Arab Collective Security Pact would never be put into effect and she began to reinforce her Army. Ben Gurion in minatory speeches threatened to force the Arabs to accept the conditions dictated by Israel. The terrorist Menahem Begin said that the Promised Land of Israel would extend from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Thus, the Inter-Arab Joint Security Pact proved a fiasco! We, who realised the extent of the danger to which the Arabs were exposed deemed it imperative to consider the steps to be taken to avert any catastrophe.

At that stage, the Powers which claimed the right to impose their influence on this part of the world began to exert their pressure by various means. They stopped the supply of arms to the Arabs who were in urgent need of it for self-defence. They tried to make us believe that the danger to the region came from a Russian Communist onslaught and if we were to obtain limited quantities of arms, we should become entangled into military pacts under the control of the West against the alleged Communist danger.

Aggression.

The next step was actual aggression by Israel. On February 26, 1955, Israel perpetrated a premeditated act of aggression on the Egyptian frontiers. This serious act of aggression sounded the real alarm for Egypt and the other Arab states soon realised that they were equally exposed to the danger of Israeli aggression. It was also felt that the Inter-Arab collective Security Pact was nothing but mere ink on paper.

Intrigues and conspiracies then took place with the object of making the Arabs despair of finding a way out of the dilemma. We became perfectly convinced that the Collective Security Pact would never effectively serve to save the Arabs from the grave dangers to which they were exposed. It was then decided to have the bilateral Syro-Egyptian pact concluded. Some Arab statesmen declared that this would cause division among the Arabs.

To those who object to the bilateral pact, I say that such an alleged discord will never affect Arab unity because the Arabs in reality form a single people.

Israel has come to conclusion that she would no longer attack Syria or Egypt with impunity.

Britain has opposed it because it represents the last nail in the coffin of imperialism. France is also against it because it rightly locks upon it as the prelude to the termination of her domination over some Arab peoples.

Finally, is it not for us and for our good peoples that some of the Arabs should unite to face the common danger by means of a bilateral agreement or agreements than to advocate Arab unity while in reality we are kindling the fire of discord and feuds?
Wednesday, October 19, was the first anniversary of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement on the evacuation of the Suez Canal Zone. During the past year, 49,031 British troops have been withdrawn from the base — nearly 6,000 more than the number scheduled to have been withdrawn by October 19, 1955 under the terms of the agreement.

With the lapse of the first year, three of the five four-month stages of withdrawal have come to an end. By June 19, 1956, there will not be a single British soldier on Egyptian soil and Egypt will celebrate the end of an occupation which lasted for more than 70 years.

Major-General Aly Amer, General Officer Commanding the Eastern zone, and Colonel Amin Hilmy, Chief of Staff of the Eastern Command, held a press conference at Ismailia to survey the evacuation operations in the first year of the agreement.

General Amer said:

"Evacuation operations are going on smoothly and regularly and the provisions of the agreement are being strictly observed. More than half of the occupation forces have been evacuated from our land and we have taken over more than half the installations and camps of the occupation forces in the past three stages.

"As you know, the evacuation plan is to roll up from Suez in the South to the North. There is complete co-operation between the two sides. This co-operation will continue until the last British soldier leaves Port Said on the prescribed date."

Colonel Hilmy then gave the following account of the progress of British withdrawal in the course of the year:

On July 27, 1954, when the Anglo-Egyptian agreement was initialled, the number of British forces in the Suez Canal zone was estimated at 60,000. Up to October 31st, 1955, 49,031 troops have been evacuated. This was an increase of 5,831 troops over the figure of 546 — or 43,700 — scheduled to be withdrawn by October 19 under the terms of the terms of the agreement.

The remaining 31,069 troops will be evacuated in the next two stages ending on June 19,1956.

The withdrawal operation in the past year involved 223 units from the three services, 126 tanks, 126 armoured cars, 238 guns, 360 vehicles of different kinds, 95,000 tons of arms and ammunition and 50,000 tons of other equipment.

The Egyptian Government took over 20 installations including four airfields, the Adabiya harbour, the Jerrycan factory at Faraa, the railway workshop at Suez and the Suez-Cairo oil pipeline.

The Egyptian military authorities also took over 32 camps from the British.
Besides these installations and camps, the Egyptian Government received a large amount of equipment including 871 railway wagons of different types and tonnage, 18 locomotives, 600 tons of spare parts for diesel and steam engines, 2,647 tons of railway tracks, 10,000 tons of telephone cables and other telephone equipment, 17 launches, a dredger, 150 tons of naval equipment and seven hangars.

The Egyptian Government has also bought equipment for nearly L.E.1,000,000 including an aerated-water factory which produces 6,000 bottles an hour and a floating crane.

Under the agreement civilian contractors companies are to maintain some British installations in the zone. These are the engineering workshops and depots at Fanara, and two ammunition and equipment depots at Abu Sultan and Tel El-Kebir, together with their water and power stations.

Seven new contractor companies have been formed to operate and maintain these installations. Like any commercial or industrial firms in Egypt, these companies are subject to the Egyptian law. They are entitled to appoint a maximum of 800 British technicians. Four hundred of these have already arrived in the Canal zone. They hold ordinary passports like any foreigner in Egypt.

Nearly 16,000 Egyptian employees and workers have been engaged in the Canal base. Of these, 2,957 serve with the civilian contractors. The rest serve with the Egyptian authorities. Clearance from the Eastern Command must be obtained by all Egyptian working with the civilian contractors.

The Eastern Command supervises customs procedure relating to the departure of members of the British forces and the export of their equipment.

The Customs have collected L.E.16,809 representing duty on cars, and arms belonging to members of the British forces.

Dues collected from the sale of surplus stores have amounted to L.E.636,335, while dues on alcoholic drinks consumed by the British forces have amounted to L.E.128,272.

The British Embassy in Cairo released a statement on the progress of evacuation in the past year. It was similar in essence to the account given by Colonel Hilmy.

Meanwhile, the British military authorities have decided to move their command headquarters from Ismailia area to Port Said next February. This will be in line with the South-North "rolling-up" nature of the withdrawal operation.

Well-informed sources predict that the last British soldier will leave Egypt two months ahead of the scheduled date of June 19, 1956.
15th November, 1956.

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THE SUDDAN.

BRITAIN OBSTRUCTS FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO SUPERVISE SELF-DETERMINATION IN SUDDAN.

An abortive British attempt to avoid International Supervision.

Last Sunday October 23, an official spokesman of the Egyptian Government commented on an announcement made by a responsible spokesman of the British Foreign Office which was broadcast the previous evening through the B.B.C. in London, alleging that Egypt had taken a unilateral step by requesting the seven countries which will be represented on the International Commission to supervise self-determination in the Sudan, to nominate their representatives on that Commission.

The British spokesman was quoted as saying that before taking this step, Egypt should have consulted with the British Government with a view to reaching an agreement over the Commission's terms of reference.

He added that although the British Government has not announced its official views concerning the expressed wish of the Sudanese Parliament to determine the future of the Sudan through a public plebiscite, it was nevertheless understood that the British Government agreed to that wish.

British Statement "Lacks Precision".

Commenting on these announcements, an Egyptian official spokesman made the following statement:

"The British spokesman's announcement that Egypt acting on her own, invited the member-states of the Commission to supervise self-determination in the Sudan without prior consultation with Britain, is a statement which lacks precision. The truth is that Egypt has requested Britain some time ago that the two countries should together address the invitations to the member-states on this Commission, but Britain has not shown any inclination towards answering this request; but has actually shown that she did not wish to take this step.

"After seeing no reason why this Commission should not be asked to convene, especially that Egypt had already approved the British text establishing the Commission's terms of reference, without the least change.

"In the face of this situation, the Egyptian Government has found no alternative but to observe on its part the implementation of the Anglo-Egyptian agreement, which provides that the International Commission should meet before the complete withdrawal of the Egyptian and the British troops (from the Sudan) in the meantime, Egypt informed the British Government of her actions and asked her to take similar steps on her part.

The Supreme Command of the Sudan Defence Force.

"In taking this measure, Egypt does no more than carry out her commitments provided for in the agreement, especially that there is an urgent question which the Commission should decide upon before the final date of the evacuation (of British and Egyptian troops) which was fixed for November 15, 1956."

"This urgent question is that of the Supreme Command of the Sudan Defence Force.

"In this connection, it is worthwhile recalling that, whilst drafting the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, Egypt has always disapproved of the possibility that the Sudan Governor-General should continue to remain as the Supreme Commander of the Sudan Defence Force after the evacuation of the British and Egyptian troops. In order to settle the dispute over this point, it was agreed to leave this question to be settled by the International Commission for Self-Determination.

"It has been learned (since) that the Sudanese Parliament has chosen seven countries for the membership of this Commission and conveyed its wishes to the two Condominium Governments. The Sudanese Parliament also conveyed to the two governments its wish to carry out a General Plebiscite rather than electing a Constituent Assembly. Egypt immediately approved these two requests - on August 9, 1955.

Britain Evades International Supervision.

"We can also assert that Egypt has informed the British Government of her acceptance of the two requests, but Britain, on her part, has not taken a similar step.

"We can positively affirm, therefore, that the British Government does not welcome the convocation of the International Commission, but obstructs its formation. By this, Britain aims at keeping the Supreme Command of the Sudan Defence Force in the hands of the British Governor-General and also wishes that the self-determination process should be carried out without the least international supervision.

"We feel that the Egyptian Government, by adopting this procedure, is expressing the opinion of the Sudanese people, their parties and other organisations who would never accept a British Governor at the head of their army, after the evacuation of Foreign Armies".

Egypt Lodges A Strong Protest Against A Statement By The Political Advisor To The Sudan Governor-General.

It was also announced in Cairo that the Egyptian Government had lodged a strong protest to the British Government against a recent statement made by the Political Advisor to the Sudan Governor-General.

The Egyptian Government considered that this statement constituted a violation of the Anglo-Egyptian agreement on the Sudan, and that by such action, Britain was but aiming at achieving her own interests in the Sudan.

Luce's Statement.

It was reported that this statement had been published in "Al-Hamma" Sudanese newspaper on October 13, following the return to Khartoum from Britain of Mr. Luce, the Political Advisor to the Governor-General.

In that statement, Mr. Luce, said:

"Britain’s policy is to respect the feelings and wishes of the Sudanese, and to maintain their friendship by all possible means. We shall stand no more in the way of any development, aims or national trends which the Sudanese might want to take."

Mr. Luce added:

"If the Sudanese Parliament decided that the Proclamation of Independence should come from within the Parliament itself, Britain would recognise its decision."

Mr. Luce concluded his statement by saying:

"This policy can come officially and in writing, if the Sudanese so requested."

Statement Denied.

On Tuesday, October 25, it was reported from Khartoum that Mr. Luce has issued an official communique in which he totally refuted the whole of the statement attributed to him.

It was also learned that the Sudan Governor-General had sent an urgent message to the Egyptian Government in which he denied the statement attributed to his Adviser, affirming that "nothing of that sort had ever come from him or from his Political Adviser."

British Note To Egypt.

Meanwhile, a British Foreign Office spokesman announced in London that Britain had sent a memorandum to Egypt suggesting that the two governments should enter into negotiations concerning the future of the Sudan, on the understanding that they should take into consideration the proposals which will be put forward by the Sudanese Parliament at its meeting.

No Plebiscite. Not A Constituent Assembly.

The Foreign Office spokesman added that Britain favours the proposal made by El-Sayed Ismail El-Azhar that the present Sudanese Parliament should be entrusted with three tasks, i.e. to decide the future set up of the Sudan, to draw up the Constitution and to draft an electoral law.

"The spokesman also added that such a proposal would render futile the organisation of a plebiscite or the holding of elections for a constituent assembly. There will also be no need for the setting up of an international control commission."

Flagrant Violation Of The Agreement.

Commenting on this report, a spokesman at the Ministry of State for Sudan Affairs in Cairo declared that this request from Britain constituted a flagrant violation of the agreement and an open interference in the Sudan's right to self-determination. It would also affect the free and neutral atmosphere.

The spokesman went on to say:

"Neutrality demands that Britain and its agents should cease interfering in the self-determination process in the Sudan and should abstain from favouring one trend or the other."
"This open interference on the part of Britain indicates her insistence on evading the convocation of the International Commission for deciding the Sudan's destiny before the evacuation. By this, Britain aims at placing the Governor-General at the head of the Supreme Command of the Sudan Defence Force. Britain wishes to do this away from the international supervision."

Britain Manoeuvres To Keep The Governor-General In Supreme Command.

It was announced in Cairo that the British Government had officially replied to Egypt's request to expedite the formation of the international commission to consider the question of the Sudan Defence Force's Supreme Command after the withdrawal of British and Egyptian troops.

The British reply said no vacuum had been created in the Command of the Sudan Defence Force, which would remain in the hands of the Governor-General by virtue of the power conferred on him by Article 11 of the self-rule Statute, until such time as the Statute is amended.

Commenting on this statement, and Egyptian official source said:

"The British note shows beyond doubt Britain's imperialistic intentions and her aim to keep the Sudan Defence Force under the command of the British Governor-General at the most critical stage in the Sudan's development.

"I need not enlighten the Sudanese on the serious attitude of the British Government, for they are capable of understanding the realities.

"We leave the matter in the hands of the Sudanese people, their political parties and organisations."

British Ambassador Sees Minister Of Interior.

The British Ambassador to Egypt, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, called on Lt. Colonel Zakaria Mohyeddin, who is now handling Sudan affairs, and conferred with him for more than one hour.

The meeting was also attended by Brigadier Abdel Fattah Hassan, Deputy Minister of State for Sudan Affairs, and by Mr. Ralph Murray, Minister of the British Embassy in Cairo.

Following this meeting a British Embassy spokesman said that the meeting dealt with Sudan Affairs. He added that other meetings will be held with a view to reaching a solution which will accelerate self-determination in the Sudan.

SECOND SESSION OF ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CAIRO NEXT JUNE.

It has been decided in principle that the next session of the Asian-African Conference should be held in Cairo in June, 1956. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Wing Commander Aly Sabry, Chief of the Prime Minister's Cabinet for Political Affairs, has been formed to make the necessary arrangements for the session.
It is suggested that the session should be held either at the main Gezira Exhibition Building or in the vast Ceremonies Hall of the Cairo University.

Explaining the reasons for the choice of Cairo as the next meeting place for the Conference, the Government of Afghanistan, through an official spokesman, stated that Cairo’s international importance, the outstanding role played by Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser at the Bandung Conference, and Egypt’s prestige among the Conference member-states, should urge them to choose Cairo as the venue for the next conference session.

It is further reported that the Prime Minister of Ceylon, one of the Colombo Conference member-states, the remaining countries being India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Burma, has informed his colleagues that he has written to Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser suggesting that the Conference should be held in Cairo. The suggestion, it is learned, has been approved.

Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser, who has welcomed the suggestion, has deemed it appropriate that the Conference session should coincide with the great national festival in celebration of the complete evacuation of British forces from the Canal Zone due to take place in June, 1956.

ECONOMIC REVIEW.

EGYPT–CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT
RELEASED.

L.E.10 Million Worth of Egyptian Goods For China Against L.E.2 Million Of Chinese Imports. Trade Centres To Be Opened in Both Cairo & Peking.

The trade agreement between Egypt and the People’s Republic of China was simultaneously released in Cairo and Peking.

The agreement is the successful outcome of Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser’s efforts at Bandung and his direct contacts with Mr. Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China.

It is an “ideal agreement” said Dr. Mohamed Abu Nasseir, Minister of Commerce and Industry. He disclosed that Egypt had already purchased from China, under the agreement, iron for building purposes worth L.E.2,100,000 while China had bought L.E.6 million worth of Egyptian cotton.

Extended Trade.

The Agreement calls on both Governments to exert efforts for the expansion of their present trade relations through the exchange of trade missions, setting up of commercial centres and the holding of exhibitions in both countries.

The pact covers £20 million worth of goods and will run for three years.

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China undertakes to supply Egypt under the agreement with machine tools, construction machinery and construction steel, mining equipment, pressing machinery, textile machinery and complete mills for sugar refinery, flour, weaving and paper... This is besides telephone equipment, sanitary installations, timber, chemical products, minerals, woollen textiles, leather products, domestic goods, animal and vegetable fats, preserved foodstuffs, tea, tobacco and silks.

On its part, Egypt will export certain goods to China of the kind which the latter has been trying to secure for its five-year plan, from Russia and Eastern European countries.

The full text of the Agreement 'reads as follows:

"With a view to consolidating the bonds of friendship between their governments and peoples and stimulating their mutual trade exchanges, Egypt and the People’s Republic of China have concluded the following trade agreement:

Article 1. Both governments share the desire to secure an equilibrium in their balance of trade and will exert their utmost effort to stimulate and develop their mutual trade exchanges. They will enter into talks during the validity period of this agreement, with a view to determining the volume of such exchanges for the following year, and three months before the expiry of each year of the agreement.

Article 2. It is agreed that each party’s exports to the other shall be listed in two schedules "A" and "B" to be attached to the agreement, and which will form an integral part thereof. Each government will issue the necessary import and export permits in accordance with its laws and regulations, to cover the goods listed in the said schedules (A) and (B). This does not mean the exclusion of the goods other than given in the schedules.

Article 3. Each party shall accord the most-favoured nations treatment to the other as regards the issue of export and import permits and the collection of customs dues.

Article 4. Since no payments agreement exists between the two countries, payments are to be made by means of irrevocable letters of credit to be opened in transferable sterling or in any other currency acceptable to both parties. These letters are to be opened before the goods are shipped, direct between the banks accredited in both countries for foreign currency transactions, and settlement shall be effected in the usual manner.

In case China pays the value of Egyptian exports in transferable sterling, she can enjoy the application of the import entitlement system in accordance with the laws in force in Egypt.

Article 5. It is agreed that technical inspection and arbitration shall be provided for in each contract separately.

Article 6. With a view to the development of both parties' mutual trade, it is agreed that the Egyptian Government will set up a trade office for it in the People’s Republic of China which, in turn, will establish a similar office in Egypt.

It is further agreed that both parties undertake to grant security, protection and all the other facilities to their respective trade agents.
Article 7. Each country shall hold trade fairs in the territory of the other, and shall accord to it all the necessary facilities for the purpose within the laws and regulations in force.

Article 8. Preference shall be given to national companies in each contracting country as regards the banking and the insurance business. The selection of commercial agents shall be limited to the nationals of Egypt and China.

Term.

Article 9. This agreement will come into force following its ratification by both governments, and shall be valid for three years. It may be extended or amended by talks between the two parties, to be held within three months from the expiry date of the agreement.

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THE EAST-GERMAN TRADE MISSION IN CAIRO.

An East-German trade mission, headed by the Director-General of the Internal and Foreign Trade Department, arrived at Cairo on Thursday, October 21.

This mission, comprising senior officials of the German Trade Department, the State Bank and representatives of East-German business firms, called on Dr. Abu Nassef on the day of their arrival. They intend to promote commercial relations between their country and Egypt, the 1953 Trade Agreement concluded between them not having proved very beneficial.

The German delegates stated that their factories were actively producing equipment necessary for electric projects in Aswan. They intimated that East-Germany was willing to send experts, engineers and technicians to contribute to the execution of the projects and would send 25 engineers as a first batch. They further expressed their country's desire to promote its imports of Egyptian cotton as well as other materials such as raw manganese, talcum, phosphates, utensils, agricultural products and handcraft, in exchange for equipment and commodities.

On his part, Dr. Abu Nassef, Minister of Commerce and Industry, referred to East-Germany's reputation as a producer of essential materials and machinery required for industrialization plans. He further intimated that Egypt's exports to it exceeded its imports from it as shown by Egypt's favourable trade balance with East Germany.

The two parties are earnestly desirous of concluding a long-term trade agreement to the mutual benefit of both countries.

Egypt-West German Trade Protocol Signed.

A supplementary protocol was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Thursday, October 20, between Egypt and West Germany. Under this protocol, Egypt will export to West Germany, 200 tons of Egyptian yarns with reduced Custom duty. This protocol is an additional supplement to the trade agreement signed between the two countries in Bonn, on July 31, 1954. The protocol was written in both German and English. It was signed for the Bonn Government by Dr. Walter Becker, the West-German Ambassador in Cairo, and for Egypt, by Mr. Mustafa Hassan, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department.
WORLD MARKETS OPEN THEIR DOORS TO EGYPTIAN COTTON YARN.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has received a report from the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Development Fund on the recent visit of the Fund's mission to Indonesia where important deals for considerable quantities of Egyptian cotton yarn and textiles were made. The report points out that the visit has had important results. The report adds that the Fund's efforts for marketing Egyptian cotton yarn have met with marked success in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

It adds that local spinning mills consumed during the month of August 136,463 kantars of cotton as compared with 102,044 kantars during the corresponding period of last year, with an increase of 34,419 kantars at a rate of 33.7%. The report further states that Rumania is considered to be the best client for Egyptian cotton yarn, her imports amounting to a proportion of 50%, sometimes even rising to 60%.

Egyptian products, according to the report, are beginning to open-up new markets in the Philippines and U.S.A. which pay their imports in the dollar currency.

The total value of the orders for Egyptian cotton yarn this year is L.E. 4,429,075, being the price of 9,814 tons at an average price of L.E. 440 per ton.

Czechoslovakia Is First Among Egypt's Cotton Importers.

Cotton exports since the beginning of the current season up to October 12 totalled 217,932 kantars, as against last year's corresponding figure of 1,737,884 kantars.

Last week's exports rose to 77,356 kantars, compared with 19,671 kantars the week before. The leading importing country was Hungary; U.S.A. came next followed by Japan, Britain, Switzerland, France, Austria, Germany, Italy and India.

Total exports of Karnak during the week in question were 84,177 kantars, as against 42,922 kantars (Menoufi) 43,277 of Guiza 30, and 85,163 of Ashmun. As for Karnak exports since the beginning of the season up to October 12, they totalled 175,193 kantars as against 231,450 kantars during the corresponding period of last year.

This gives a total distribution of 393,123 kantars as against 469,134 kantars last season, leaving stocks on hand as at October 12, of 10,441,345 kantars' as against 9,928,418 kantars on the same date the last season.

Leading Importer.

According to the current season's statistical position, Czechoslovakia was the leading customer with a total import figure up to October 12, of 25,769 kantars. Hungary came next with a figure of 21,445 kantars followed by France (10,443), Japan (17,374), U.S.A. (12,639), Italy (11,397), Switzerland (11,397), China (10,951), and Germany (8,736).

TOURIST INDUSTRY IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Chamber of Tourist Industry has prepared a new report on the Tourist Movement in Egypt. In view of the importance of this subject and of the future of tourism in the country, we give hereunder some extracts of the report which contain valuable information and statistics.

It is gathered from these statistics that the number of tourists who visited Egypt during 1954, including those who made flying visits is 344,407 compared with 250,059 in 1953 and 206,033 in 1952, with an increase of 94,428 persons, or a proportion of 37.9% over the previous year and 138,452 persons or 67.2% in 1952.

Tourist Movement According To Months & Duration Of Stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>No. of Tourists</th>
<th>Average Duration Of Stay In Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>18,799</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>20,755</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>23,543</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>27,245</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>22,944</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>25,236</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>33,681</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>37,868</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>40,967</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td>26,059</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>26,918</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus it will be readily seen from this monthly distribution of the tourist movement that the increase in their number is particularly noticeable during the four months of July, August, September, and October, (150,988) tourists as against 193,499 tourists during the other eight months), which are considered the months of vacations during which collective trips are organised.

It can be gathered from this table that tourism achieved a marked progress in 1954. In order, however, to learn the facts behind these figures, a study thereof should be made in accordance with the nationalities of tourists and a comparison made between the tourist movements in the years 1953 and 1952. This is clearly shown by the following tables:

Distribution Of Tourists According To Their Nationalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total Of Tourists</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total Of Tourists</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Spanish</td>
<td>453 303</td>
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<td>Australian</td>
<td>272 151</td>
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<td>6,484</td>
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<td>905 1,058</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11,600</td>
<td>African</td>
<td>1,540 5,667</td>
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<td>5,917 3,401</td>
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<td>8,597</td>
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<tr>
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<td>634 302</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>5,989 1,456</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total of Tourists (1953)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>18,256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central American</td>
<td>514</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>African</td>
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<td>39</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<th>Total of Tourists 1953</th>
<th>1952</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkan</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>2,721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss</td>
<td>1,993</td>
<td>1,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabs</td>
<td>34,425</td>
<td>21,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>6,976</td>
<td>5,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>1,993</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3,097</td>
<td>1,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>2,537</td>
<td>2,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>4,167</td>
<td>2,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,805</td>
<td>2,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90,593</td>
<td>75,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flying trips: 230,375

Total: 344,487

It is obvious that the tourists from the Arab League countries whose number this year has increased over that of last year (37,676 against 34,425) are still maintaining the lead among other categories of tourists. It is our belief, however, that their number as shown in the above table represents, apart from ordinary tourists, the Arab youth who study in Egypt.

Next in importance to Arab tourists are the Americans (18,256 against 7,972 in 1953) and then the British (11,600 against 6,989), French (8,587 against 5,976), and the Greeks (7,977 against 4,167).

It appears that the German tourists whose number this year showed a small increase over that of last year (5,656 against 5,617) will occupy a more important place in the future. The number of Italian tourists, although showing a decline in comparison with the previous year (4,464 against 6,823 in 1953) is, however, still worthy of mention.

The number of tourists from North Africa, England and France has shown a marked increase compared with that of last year, the proportion of this increase has amounted to 129%, 97% and 23% respectively.

As regards Helwan, though it enjoyed a wide reputation in the past, it has not benefited by the tourist movement, and its hotels this season received only a small number of foreign tourists.

The report submitted to the appropriate authorities by the Austrian expert entrusted with the analysis of Helwan mineral water, shows that the proportion of sulphur in the water is 39.2 cubic mms. in every 100 cc. of water, which is a high proportion if compared with that of the waters of many European mineral water resorts such as the Baden, the sulphur proportion of which amounts to 15.9 cubic mms. in every 100 cc. of water.
The expert has stated in his report that Helwan's warm and dry climate is unparalleled in the world, and has expressed the belief that this climate is radioactive.

Concluding the report, he predicts a prosperous future for Helwan as a centre, with the sulphuric waters of which, many diseases such as Rheumatism, Lumbago, all kinds of paralysis and chronic skin diseases are treated.

It has been decided by the authorities to provide Helwan Baths - now renovated - with all equipment and apparatus recommended by the expert. This is expected to be done during this month.

It is earnestly hoped that Helwan will recover its former importance.

The tourist season in Upper Egypt (Luxor, Aswan and other places) was satisfactory, as indicated by the number of tourists who used the sleeping cars of the International Wagon Lits Co., reaching 37,690 against 30,093 in 1953, an increase of 7,603 persons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>1954</th>
<th>1953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4,521</td>
<td>3,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>3,985</td>
<td>3,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>4,392</td>
<td>3,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4,707</td>
<td>2,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>1,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1,765</td>
<td>1,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>1,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>1,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>2,168</td>
<td>1,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>3,202</td>
<td>2,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>2,955</td>
<td>2,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>4,370</td>
<td>3,607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is believed that the establishment of an international airport in Alexandria will stimulate a wide-scale tourist movement which will be greatly beneficial to the city. On the other hand, it will render valuable services to the transit planes which are now compelled to prolong their stay in Cairo, thus extra expenses are incurred on the air companies which they undoubtedly wish to avoid.
Encouragement of Tourism.

If last year achieved more progress than the preceding years, this was largely to be attributed to the competent authorities who exerted tremendous efforts in order to raise tourism to the highest possible level. In fact, tourism has, nowadays become an important cornerstone in the economic structure of all countries. It has contributed effectively to consolidating the economy of the European countries since the end of the war.

Egypt, being a state depending in its economy on imports, suffers the shortage in foreign currency which cannot be offset by the foreign currency convertability as used to be the case in the past. Egypt is in more need of tourism than any other country as it is an important source for obtaining this currency. In fact, tourism is nowadays playing - to a certain extent - the same part gold used to play in the past as a means for balancing international payments.

It is worthy of note in this connection that the deficit in our trade balance is falling, for it amounted to L.E. 23 million in 1954 against 38.9 million in 1953 and 76.9 million in 1951.

The Government’s policy concerning the abolition of restrictions on the tourists’ entry into Egypt and on their stay therein, has yielded good results; it has simplified the formalities for granting entry visas and facilitated the customs measures for entry into and exit from the country. This policy has served as a good incentive to attract more tourists and travellers.

There can be no doubt that these measures, which were complicated in the past, discouraged tourists from visiting the country and in many cases compelled them to cancel their trips.

The realization of this fact on the part of the present regime, has its effect in encouraging tourism and travelling agencies to organize successful collective trips.

It must be stated that economic and social evolution in modern times, has made trips and vacations which were confined to well-to-do classes, have brought them within the reach of all classes of people. Thus, tourism has become no longer limited to those who have leisure time and means for a long stay, but has become accessible even to the working classes.

This fact has been established not only in Egypt but in all other countries of the world.

It is the duty of travel agencies to organize trips of groups on easy terms.

Despite the fact that hotel accommodation has considerably increased, it is still to a certain extent inadequate. It is expected that the opening of the new Shepheard’s Hotel in 1956 and the Nile Hotel in July, 1957 will solve this problem, as they will increase the number of rooms by 200 and 400 respectively.

L.E.12 MILLION OF TRADE EXCHANGES WITH EAST-GERMANY AGREED.

Agreements To Run For Three Years.

The Egyptian delegation, led by Taher El-Kholy, Permanent Under Secretary for Commerce and Industry, at a meeting drafted a trade agreement with East-Germany for a period of three years as from January 1, 1956, subject to renewal.

The draft agreement provides for the exchange of Egyptian cotton for East-German machinery and various other commodities to a total value of L.E.12 million. Higher exchanges between the two countries are expected.

The Egyptian delegation will hold another meeting later to put the final touches to the draft agreement, prior to its signature.

All outstanding points in connection with the proposed payments agreement have also been settled, and the agreement is expected to be finally drafted shortly.

Mr. Taher El-Kholy declared that the draft agreement would be signed about the middle of this month by the East-German Deputy Prime Minister who is due to arrive in Cairo for a stay of a few days.

He also revealed that the existing trade agreement between the two countries would remain in force, side by side with the new agreement.

The Egyptian Government's policy, he added, aimed at redressing Egypt's trade balance with all foreign countries having trade agreements with her by means of exporting more Egyptian cotton and rice in order to save the foreign currency needed for financing development projects.

Talks With West Germany.

Meanwhile, discussions on the proposed modification to the trade agreement between Egypt and West-Germany are still in progress.

The Egyptian side is of the opinion that West-Germany should increase her purchases of Egyptian cotton in addition to buying 50,000 tons of Egyptian rice in order to redress the trade balance between the two countries, which is now favourable to West-Germany.

It is learned that the West-German delegation has sent a report to its Government inviting their comments on the proposals already discussed for redressing the two countries' trade balance.

EAST GERMANY TO BUY 10,000 TONS OF SUDANESE COTTON.

It is reported from Khartoum that East-Germany has offered to buy 10,000 tons of Sudanese cotton against German goods.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS EGYPT'S FIRST CUSTOMER.

According to the Egyptian Cotton Statistical position over the period from the beginning of the current season up to 26th October, a total of 531,032 kantars were exported, compared with 494,878 kantars during the corresponding period of the last season.

Local consumption absorbed 244,177 kantars as against last year's corresponding figure of 228,314 kantars, and this brought this season's total distribution up to 783,599 kantars against 763,192 kantars last year.

Last week's exports were 20,158 kantars made up as follows:

- 42,016 kantars of Karnak
- 6,574 " Monufi
- 31,777 " Giza 30
- 30,990 " Ashmuni

This is compared with last season's corresponding figure of 74,207 kantars.

Czechoslovakia still retains its position as leading importer of Egypt's cotton, with a total import figure of 63,235 kantars.

Hungary came next with a total figure of 33,571 kantars, followed by France (33,064), India (31,810), Italy (30,273), Japan (29,149), Switzerland (38,146), Germany (17,749), U.S.A. (15,351), Holland (14,109), Austria (14,000), Britain (10,599).

SUBSTANTIAL COTTON DEALS WITH RUSSIA, HUNGARY AND POLAND.

The trade attaches at Foreign Embassies and Legation in Egypt have been particularly active of late in buying more cotton for their countries.

It transpires from daily operations on the local cotton markets that several European countries have entered as purchasers in "Minot El-Bassai".

The Soviet Union, it is learned, has recently concluded a deal of 20,600 kantars. Contacts are, meanwhile, underway for the export of large consignments to Hungary, Poland and other East-European countries.

CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC TO HAVE A TRADE CENTRE IN CAIRO.

The People's Republic of China has decided to open a trade centre in Cairo on the lines of the Egyptian Commercial office to be set up in Peking.

The Embassy of an Eastern Bloc country is now looking for a suitable place for the centre in Zamalek.