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12 March '56

Fawzi, Mahmoud (Foreign Minister of Egypt)

- 1 letter from D.H.

The Secretary  
The General Fund  
Department for Foreign Affairs  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
Cairo, Egypt

12 March 1956

Dear Dr. Fawzi,

Problems well known to you, added to all the things waiting for me on my return, have delayed the letter I wanted to write to you in order to thank you for the kind reception you and your colleagues gave me in Cairo and for all the courtesies and hospitality extended. My visit was most useful in bringing me to a closer understanding of your viewpoints and difficulties. It also left most pleasant memories of personal contacts which I highly appreciate.

Through Dr. Loutfi, you may have had reports on various statements which I have had to make to the international press here in New York. Trying my best to help those, who like you are aiming at peaceful progress in the Middle East, while at the same time remaining strictly within the limits set by my own conviction, I have again and again appealed for confidence in the sense of responsibility and the wisdom of the leaders. I am perfectly aware of the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East but react sharply against any suggestion that the difficulties are insuperable and that we are drifting towards war. Indeed, from whatever viewpoint we approach the problem, for all parties concerned an initiative to wage war would border on political suicide.

In the case of Egypt, the basis for the line that I take is, as you may guess, in the first place, the impressions I have gathered from you and Colonel Nasser. Apart from my faith in the sincerity of various statements made, I have my conviction that these statements are backed by a realistic appraisal of the situation. I remember your own arguments on several occasions, but I have been increasingly

His Excellency  
Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Cairo, Egypt

impressed also by the economic and social tasks facing the Egyptian Government - tasks which will require a rallying of all Egyptian resources and potentialities, especially if she wishes to stick to her line of complete independence in all directions.

Excuse my thinking aloud in this way concerning the considerations on which I base the line I have been taking publicly since my return. Wanting, as I do, to help those aiming at a peaceful development, I would appreciate your reaction to and advice on, the line to be taken by me. I am very much aware of the fact, as matters stand, that what I say to the press may have an impact, through public opinion, on the freedom of action of the Governments concerned.

Last week I had a report from General Burns on his Cairo talks. I was gratified to note the constructive and helpful way in which the Egyptian representatives reacted to the questions he had to raise. I am sure that in this spirit progress, although slow, is quite possible, and I am convinced that every achievement, by way of agreement on questions of the El Auja type, yields results in the general political field far more important than the immediate improvement in the demarcation line situation.

Once again, I send you and your Government my very best thanks.  
Wishing you all success in your arduous task

With kind regards,