Pharoah's Minister To Washington Would Still Restrain Israelites

BY MURRAY FRANK

Mr. Murray Frank, Washington correspondent, was assigned by the Independent Jewish Press Service to interview the Egyptian Minister to the United States on problems of paramount interest to the Jews and to all who comprehend the significance of the Near East in the postwar picture.

. . . The Editor

His Excellency Mahmoud Hassan Bey, Minister of Egypt to the same time develop industry in United States, is short, a frail- Palestine to the extent where the looking man in his late fifties. latter could supply Egypt with For the past six years he has rep- necessary products that are now resented his government in Wash- imported from overseas? Would view Jewish immigration into Palington and, prior to that, was its it not be in the spirit of good estine at the end of the present representative in European cap- "neighbors" mentioned a moment war?" itals for about fifteen years. He is thoroughly Westernized in dress, manner, speech and general appearance—but not in thought.

The object of our interview was were aware, of course, of the de-Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, to a Jewish Commonwealth but we terview with his diplomatic representative to the United States an inkling of the thought processes

The Minister began with a flow of melifluous language regarding Egypt's desires for peaceful relaconcrete.

estine," we asked, "what are your placed on the agenda?" tween the two countries?"

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ago by His Excellency?

"Egypt's position on the matter is well known. We are opposed to Jewish immigration into Palto ascertain the Minister's atti- estine in any form or for any purtude on Jewsh Palestine. We pose. Egypt produces practically the same products as does Palesclared opposition of Egypt's time, so that the two countries could not very well complement each other's economic needs. Furhad hoped to obtain from this in- thermore, Egypt has also built up industries, in recent years, and we are attempting seriously to develop our owntry industrially. of the declared foes of Jewish Egypt has no need for industrial products manufactured in Palestine, and I fail to see how it can be beneficial to my country."

Some time ago your Prime tions among the peoples of this Minister proposed to mediate betroubled world. We switched the tween the Arabs and the Jews. interview to something a bit more Does Your Evcellency think that, in the event such negotiations "In view of a reported trade a- materialize, the question of a Jewgreement between Egypt and Pal- ish State in Palestine would be

Excellency's views of the possibil- Abhors Jewish Persecutions, Etc. tions. I do not know what you ities of economic co-operation be- "You may quote me on this di- mean by contributions. Besides, ish persecutions in Europe, but rectly. Egypt views with grave I have been away for so many disapproved of admitting the Jews His reply was that, to his concern the establishment of a years that I am not in a position into Palestine. Establishment of knowledge, no such agreement Jewish Homeland in Palestine. to judge the effects on the gen- a Jewish State is to him an injushad been signed, but Egypt and Egypt makes a distinction be-Palestine being neighbors he be- tween the Jewish question and lieved that an exchange of pro- political Zionism. We abhor the the interview were nearly over. Barring Jewish immigration into ducts between the two countries persecutions against Jews in Eu- As I was leaving, the Minister Palestine, as the White Paper was a natural and logical step. rope and elsewhere. Nevertheless, added: we think it an injustice against From here we turned to the the people of Palestine, composed distinguish between Jews and an Egyptian, discusses Palestine crux of the problem: does the of Jews, Christians and Moham- Zionists. We have no quarrel with freely, he cannot discuss the Minister feel that Jewish immi- medans, to establish a State in the Jews. There are about 80,000 Mufti because "the Mufti is not gration into Palestine would af their land exclusively for one peo- Jews living in Egypt today. They an Egyptian." fect Egypt favorably, since it ple. Palestine belongs to the would provide new markets for people who live there. I do not Egyptian products and at the know whether the negotiations you speak of will really materialize, and even if they do, the ques- western democratic countries. tion of a Jewish Home in Pales- These Jews living in Egypt are tine-"

clear from the shrug of his know how near Egypt is to Palespression on his face. It was just should not create friction with one definite, unmistakable: "NO!"

"Would Your Excellency care to express an opinion on the

White Paper of 1939?"

"My answer to this is brief. The Arab-speaking people look upon the White Paper as a compromise, nothing more. But let it be understood that we are not approving its contents, we are merely accepting it provisionally. That is as far as we can go.

The answers to the remaining questions were not unexpected. They were also short and snappy

"How does Your Excellency

"We are opposed to it."

"What do you think of a Federation of Near Eastern States with a Jewish Palestine included as a member of such a Federa-

"We do not for a moment admit the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.

"Would Your Excellency like to comment on the 1936-39 riots?"

'It is better not to speak of riots when we all hope and look

"Any comments on the Mufti and his followers

The Mufti is not an Egyptian I therefore cannot discuss him

Finally, we asked the Minister for his view of the economic and cultural contributions of the Jews in Palestine, particularly Jewish colonization, to the general welfare of the entire Near East. His

"I am not acquainted with the scope of the so-called contrubueral welfare of the near East."

enjoy all liberties extended to the rest of the population. There is no discrimination against themcertainly less than in some of the not Zionists, because as far as I The sentence remained unfinish- know not a single Jew left Egypt ed. The answer, however, was to settle in Palestine-and you shoulders and the skeptical ex- tine. For their own benefit, Jews

W. F. (Charlie)

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Rabbis in prayer just before the beking of Matzo schmurah.

custom for leading orthodox rab- the seas. bis from all sections of the country to come to Jersey City before Passover, to bake their matzo shmurah at the famous Manischewitz Matzo Bakery, but this year, that traditional ceremony took on special significance when the baking of matzo shmurah culminated in a spontaneous demonstration for spiritual awakening and a call to rally to the aid of the millions of Jews in war-torn Europe. Meeting in a special assembly convened in the Manischewitz Matzo Bakery, the rabbis present representing a cross section of the nation's orthodox spiritual leadership, climaxed the meeting by deciding to hold a special convention during the month of Sivan to plan concrete action on the question of immed-

the Arabs, it cannot do them

In Summary

The Minister abhorred the Jewtice to the people of Palestine, The thirty minutes allotted for including the Jews residing there. does, is to him only a "compro-"Let me make this clear. We mise, nothing more," While he,

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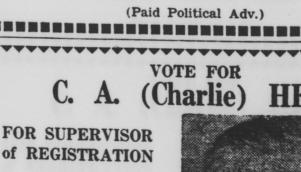
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