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# U.S. Aid To Arabs Waits Nasser's Word On CIA

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CAIRO (CDNS) — The United Arab Republic's prospects of getting the \$150,000,000 more in U. S. aid it could use to extend the Soviet-Nasser takeover in the Red Sea have been improved by the U. S. grant of \$52,000,000 in aid to Israel. A grant to the U.A.R. is likely as a balance.

A grant to the U.A.R. actually would help Israel, enabling U.A.R. President Gamal Abdel Nasser to sustain his 70,000 troops 1,500 miles away from Israel's borders, though it would be contrary to Dean Rusk's pledge to Congress to stop aid "wherever nations engage in wasteful foreign adventures."

Rusk canceled his scheduled visit to Cairo after his call on CENTO pact members in Ankara, Turkey. Nasser countered by allowing the Communist South Viet Nam liberation front to open an office in Cairo May 1. The United States has suspended its use of Nasser's offices to communicate with North Viet Nam, a convenience richly rewarded by \$55,000,000 in extra aid.

Behind this assortment of storm flags lies one critical issue: Does Nasser today like or hate the Central Intelligence Agency?

American aid and the CIA got deliberately entangled last year when the Egyptians decided that "exposure" of the CIA could be used as an arm-twisting technique for aid. Nobody was more hurt or surprised than the CIA. The sudden switch by

Nasser broke up a mutual exchange of ideas that had been profitable for both for nearly a decade without harming either.

--Nasser's system in dealing with the CIA was simple: Identify the agent on arrival, let him know it, and give him a few anti-communist tips.

In his early years Nasser was Russia's heaviest arms client, but nominally anti-Communist. His favorite CIA confidant was an able, militarily realistic skeptic -- later turned businessman in Beirut, Lebanon -- who talked Nasser's language better than the treaty-trusting ambassadors and professors sent to Cairo.

Having three competitive intelligence systems of his own employing some 50,000 agents, Nasser has been in no danger that the CIA would get much information that was unauthorized. Generally what it got was planted by Nasser.

This system has now fallen apart because Nasser has taken the Communists into his establishment, and because the CIA appears at odds with the State Department's policy of paying for the Soviet U.A.R. drive to take the Red Sea.

To make this basic discord more dramatic and get some aid leverage out of it, Nasser broke up the old arrangement by a pseudo-spy case involving

twin Egyptian newspaper publishers and an embassy CIA operative, Bruce Odell. Nasser is still keeping the Damoclean sword of "CIA disclosures" swinging over the State Department. Americans are supposed to blush, frown and bite their nails whenever the CIA is mentioned.

The twins, Mustafa and Ali Emin, are the plump ex-publishers of Al Akhbar, once free, now nationalized like all Nasser's press. The twins are Georgetown University graduates, hence "American," but useful leaks.

When Nasser and the CIA fell out, neither wished to break off this tested useful exchange of information. But the old direct meetings were impossible with so many pro-Soviet Egyptians on hand. So Nasser reached the CIA through Mohamed Heikel, his long-time confidant and the Czar of Egyptian journalism. In turn Heikel informed Odell regularly through Mustafa Emin. The other twin, Ali, Heikel sent to Paris as his correspondent.

The curtains began closing around Odell when the \$600,000,000 in U. S. aid ran out and Congress began behaving obstinately about more. Not even the bait of Saudi-Egyptian peace talks impressed Washington. Aid to the U.A.R. appeared over.

In July, Mustafa was arrested for "negotiating secrets with a foreign power and currency infractions."

The closely censored Cairo papers printed a picture of Mustafa in conversation with Odell. Odell was sent home. Mustafa was put on ice for a later trial--until the aid question was settled in November.

The Egyptians apparently had in mind the case of Singapore's prime minister Lee Kwan Yew, who was offered \$3,300,000 in 1961 to hush up revelations about the CIA.

But the \$55,000,000 in aid American Ambassador Lucius Battle gave Dec. 1 was not enough to bury Mustafa. The Egyptians shocked the Americans by announcing Mustafa was still indicted for giving Nasser's ideas "falsely" to Odell.

Beginning Dec. 29 there was a secret trial of Mustafa lasting three days. The United States dwindled to "a foreign power." Odell's name vanished. The verdict was referred to Nasser. It's still his.

Mustafa has tried to leave everybody an easy exit by admitting irregularities in exchange operations. Only a few million dollars aid are needed to get the CIA back under cover where it was before Nasser took away the blanket.

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