

'Nasser: Egypt will fight for her total independence', from Le Drapeau rouge (27 July 1956)

Caption: On 27 July 1956, the Belgian Communist daily newspaper Le Drapeau rouge reports, without condemning, the decision taken by the Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, to nationalise the Suez Canal Company.

Source: Le Drapeau rouge. Quotidien du Parti Communiste de Belgique. 27.07.1956, n° 145; 35e année. Bruxelles: Société Populaire d'Édition. "Nasser: L'Égypte luttera pour sa complète indépendance", p. 1.

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Nasser: Egypt will fight for her complete independence

Speaking at a rally held in a Cairo square to mark the fourth anniversary of King Farouk's abdication, the President of the Egyptian Republic, Gamal Abdel Nasser, yesterday delivered a major political address.

President Nasser declared: 'The Egyptian people's cause is Egypt's cause. Let the West be aware that our solidarity with this heroic struggle will never fail!' The speaker went on to emphasise forcefully that Egypt would fight for her complete independence on political, economic and social fronts.

UN to approach the World Bank with a recommendation to finance the Aswan High Dam?

Agence France-Presse claims to have learned from reliable sources that, following the refusal by the United States and Great Britain to part-finance construction of the Aswan High Dam, the UN Secretary-General is considering a formula that would help Egypt carry the project out despite this setback. It is understood that Dag Hammarskjöld favours the UN intervening to urge the World Bank to agree to contribute to the required funding.

It will be remembered that the World Bank, which had in principle been ready to advance 200 million dollars for construction of the dam on the Nile, backtracked after the decision by Washington and London.

Reactions in the Egyptian press

Commenting on the World Bank's refusal to finance the Aswan High Dam, *AlAhrām*, the Cairo-based daily, advocates Egypt's withdrawal from the World Bank.

Al Goumhouriya for its part accuses the USA and Britain of concluding a secret agreement to sabotage any Egyptian-Soviet agreement on financing the dam. According to the same newspaper, London and Washington are also attempting to persuade the governments of Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda to turn shift their attention away from the Nile.

Thanks to the help of the USSR an atomic research centre is to be built

Egypt's first atomic research centre is to be sited 30 km from Cairo.

Plans for this research centre have been submitted to Soviet experts currently residing in Egypt. The reactor, to be supplied by the USSR, will be of a new type. Construction could be completed by March 1957. The joint committee of Soviet and Egyptian experts has also approved plans for a number of other centres specialising in atomic energy applications.