

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Division of Biographic Information**

HATIM, Mubammad 'Abd al-Qadir

EGYPT

Mubammad 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim is Director General of the Information Administration in the Ministry of National Guidance. Previously employed in the Intelligence Office, Hatim was apparently appointed to the Ministry of National Guidance in March 1955 as a part of Prime Minister Nasir's effort to offset Salah Salim's influence. Reportedly on the advice of 'Ali Sabri, close associate of Hatim and Nasir's chef de cabinet, the appointment was aimed at providing a check on Salim's unilateral efforts to make domestic and foreign policy without the approval of the Prime Minister and the RCC. Hatim is considered "completely devoted" to 'Abd al-Nasir.

From the beginning Hatim seems to have exerted considerable influence on the Ministry and on more than one occasion was reported to have counter-manded the orders of Salim. Hatim devoted much of his attention to two phases of activity in the Information Department: to reorganizing administration and to establishing a government-sponsored news agency. In his reorganization of the administration of the propaganda section of the Ministry, Hatim's work reflected his background in intelligence. Certain civilian officials are reported to have commented privately that his organizational innovations were more suited to an intelligence operation than a propaganda ministry. His efforts to establish the Middle East News Agency with eventual world-wide coverage appear to have had a two fold aim. It was part of his designs to extend the regime's control over the press and dissemination of foreign news in Egypt. In addition it provided a framework for an Egyptian intelligence and propaganda establishment abroad.

Hatim is a graduate of the Military Academy of Egypt and seems to have studied economics at London University where it is reported that he obtained an M.A. degree. He is married and has one child who has had infantile paralysis. When the suggestion was made that the American Naval Research Unit (NAMRU) examine the child and possibly recommend treatment in the United States, Hatim said that such a procedure was not politically feasible. Hatim speaks excellent English.

Hatim, who says he is anti-Communist, considers himself an authority on Communism and has obtained books on Marxism from the American Press Attache in Cairo. During the spring of 1955 he was reported to have been the officer in the Ministry of National Guidance who was instrumental in preventing (up to this time) Egyptian official approval of an application for permission to exhibit Russian films in Cairo cinemas. However, on his staff is an army officer who is known to be an avowed leftist. Hatim has always been personally friendly with American newsmen and Embassy personnel.

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February 13, 1956

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