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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Biographic InformationHATIM, Muhammad 'Abd al-QadirEGYPT

'Abd al-Qadir Hatim is probably as western-oriented and as friendly (personally) toward the United States as any Egyptian official who has occupied a position of importance in Gamal 'Abd al-Nasir's regime. However, it appears that he has been more of a follower than a policy maker, and as such he has been one of the chief instruments in the Egyptian newspaper and propaganda campaign. On the basis of his past record, it is doubtful if Hatim has either the courage or the necessary following and power to stand up to the predominant forces around the Presidency. Furthermore, in the past, while professing friendship toward the United States, he has issued orders which have placed serious obstacles in USIS operations; for example, he seems to have been responsible for delays in telecommunications operations and on one occasion he ordered USIS employees thrown in jail for distributing pamphlets he had formerly cleared. Although he was careful to avoid contacts with American officials in mid-1956, he was the first official of prominence to call at the U.S. Embassy during the UNGA debates on cease fire in November 1956.

Recently, Hatim has acted as Nasir's unofficial representative in London on such matters as the release of blocked sterling accounts. At the date of this writing, the smoke has not yet cleared from the spate of rumors surrounding Hatim's activities in London; at one time it was said that his optimistic reports were misleading and that Nasir was disgusted with him, at another time it was rumored that his reports were not overly-optimistic and that Nasir was so pleased with Hatim's efforts he had decided not to demote him. Nor is there, at this date, any confirmation of the FBIS report of November 4, 1957 that Hatim had been replaced as Director General of the Information Department.

(Supplement to report dated February 13, 1956)

IRC:BI:VHMacLean:mh

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