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THURSDAY Evening September 30th, 1948.  
 FRIDAY Morning October 1st, 1948.

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"America's Ambassador discusses war,  
 cotton, and cinema".

Under the above heading, Al Zaman, the independent evening daily, prints the following story which occupies half of its front page: "One of our reporters had an interview with His Excellency Mr Stanton Griffis, America's now Ambassador in Egypt, in which many political and economic questions were discussed.

"Our reporter says: Mr Stanton Griffis, the U.S. Ambassador in Egypt, received me with kindness. He shook hands welcoming me, and invited me to sit in a big room adorned by two big photographs of President Truman and Mr Marshall, as well as a map of the Middle East.

"A diplomat"

"War has made of Mr Griffis who used to be one of America's big businessmen, an accomplished diplomat. It is known that he held several important posts among which were the chairmanship of the Executive Committee of Paramount pictures and chairman of the Board of Directors of Brentano's book stores.

"When the U.S.A. entered the world war, His Excellency put himself at the disposal of his government. He was then appointed a Captain on the General Staff and sent to Europe on a confidential mission. He visited Britain, Spain, Sweden, Finland, and Portugal. He later became chairman of the Office of War Information's Domestic Motion Picture Bureau, overseas representative of the American Foreign Economic Administration, and Commissioner of the American Red Cross for the Pacific Ocean Areas. He asked to be transferred as Ambassador to Egypt after the resignation of Mr Pinkney Tuck.

"Egypt the milestone between  
 the East and West".

"Mr Griffis has been wanting for a long time to live in Egypt. He says that Egypt's climate is similar to California's and that Egypt is the milestone between the East and West.

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"Visits"

"As soon as he arrived in Egypt, Mr Griffis paid a visit to Cairo, Suez, Ismailia, Port-Said, and Alexandria. He intends to visit some Egyptian villages next week and then go in November on a Nile trip to the Sudan. He said to me: 'I hope to visit the rest of the Egyptian provinces'.

"Politics"

"The discussion soon turned to politics. Mr Griffis who is considered one of the most accomplished and nicest diplomats appeared to weigh every word before he said it. 'The Arab refugees question' he said 'occupies the major part of our attention at present. We think about it day and night and we are trying to get all the money and help we can from the U.S.A. for this purpose. No doubt this problem must be solved promptly. One of the most important points contained in Bernadotte's plan is his demand that the refugees should be permitted and given every facility to return to their homes'.

"The Paris session".

"What do you think of the present session of the U.N. Assembly?" I asked. "I pin great hopes in it. Gromyko himself declared when he was leaving the U.S.A. that the United Nations Organisation should be made to succeed in its mission", he replied.

"The International situation".

"And what do you think of the International situation?" I asked. "Very bad. Very bad indeed" replied Mr Griffis in a voice that shook with emotion.

"The East and the West"

Q - "What steps should be taken so that an agreement between the East and West may be reached?"

A - "The United Nations should be strengthened. There should be a better understanding among the nations. There should be more tolerance about other people's doctrines and mode of living. No country must impose its doctrines on other countries. We do not want Moslems to become Christians or Communists to become democrats. We hope that an atmosphere may be created in which all religions and political doctrines can live side by side in harmony".

"The situation in Poland"

Q - "What do you think of the situation in Poland?"

A - Poland is extremely Catholic but it is governed by a communist government.

"Economics"

"Seeing that His Excellency the Ambassador is a big businessman, the discussion naturally turned to economics. He said: 'The economic situation in the U.S.A. was never better than it is now. As for the currency question and the

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difficulties attached to it, it may be said that they are due to the present world crisis which cannot be ended except by strengthening the foundations of peace and by the return of trade to its normal flow.

"The Egyptian cotton"

Q - "Is America interested in Egyptian cotton?"

A - This problem is one of the most difficult problem confronting me. Our cotton crop was very big this year. The situation is bad in the southern states where cotton is considered one of their most important revenues. We produce ten times as much cotton as Egypt does. Yet we buy a tenth of Egypt's cotton crop. But I sincerely hope to be able to succeed in increasing the U.S. quota of Egyptian cotton.

"Tourism"

"The discussion then turned to tourism. The Ambassador said: 'Egypt is considered one of the countries which American tourists like to visit before other countries. More tourists will visit Egypt after the situation in Palestine returns to normal. War and many memories attract the Americans to Egypt. At the same time it would please us to see more Egyptians visit the United States'.

"The dollar crisis"

"The discussion then turned to the dollar crisis. His Excellency said: 'The dollar crisis as I said is an international problem, the solution of which depends on the establishment of peace all over the world so that trade may be revived'.

"The Cinema"

"We should mention that the most important post which Mr Griffis hold in the past is that of Chairman of the Executive Committee of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood. It was going bankrupt fifteen years ago, but it managed to regain its position and become to-day one of the leading and most financially successful film companies in the U.S.A. or in the whole world for that matter, thanks to Mr Griffis' cleverness.

"I therefore asked His Excellency: 'How did you become interested in the cinema world and its affairs?'. 'I was a businessman and became interested more in the financial side of the film industry than the technical side', replied the Ambassador.

"The American cinema"

Q - "What do you think of the position of the American cinema in the world?"

A - "It is difficult for an American citizen to answer this question. But I may say that the U.S.A. is in the forefront in this field, a thing which gives us much pleasure seeing that the cinema is the best means of spreading culture and

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understanding among nations. It is indeed gratifying that people are able to see American films which cost millions of dollars to produce, by paying a small charge.

"The European cinema"

Q - "What do you think of the situation of the European cinema after the war? Can it seriously compete with the American cinema?"

A - "No. But we want to help industries all over the world. America at present leads the world in this field because of her technical experience and thanks to the capable men who served in the industry generation after generation".

"Sports"

"His Excellency the Ambassador who is 61 years of age is known to like sports. When I probed the subject he said: 'Yes I am fond of sports. I like to play Tennis daily at Gezira Sporting Club'. He then concluded the interview with the playful remark: 'But I shall take up golf when I get old'".

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The Palestine "National Assembly"  
met yesterday at Gaza.

The Arabic press gives wide publicity to the story that the so-called Arab Palestine "National Assembly" met yesterday at Gaza. Al Ahram's Gaza correspondent reports that the Mufti, Haj Amin Al Husseini drove to the Assembly building accompanied by Ahmed Hilmy Pasha and escorted by armoured cars. Big crowds lined the street and cheered the Mufti, says the paper which adds that slogans such as "Long live King Farouk", "Long Live Egypt", "Long Live Palestine" were heard during the procession.

The Assembly passed a vote of confidence in Hilmy Pasha's "Cabinet". Eighty three members were present, and when the voting took place sixty four members supported the government while eleven voted against. The rest abstained. The Assembly then proceeded to elect its President, Vice-Presidents, and secretaries. The Mufti was unanimously elected President of the Assembly. Sheikh Hassan Abul Saoud and Michel Azer were elected Vice Presidents, and Emile Al Khoury and Mahmoud Dagan secretaries. The Assembly adjourned and will hold another meeting to-morrow October 2nd at 3.30 P.M., says Al Ahram.

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The activities of the Iraqi Prime  
Minister in Egypt.

Al Ahram reports that Iraqi Prime Minister Al Pachachi who is in Egypt at present saw yesterday September 30th. Al Sayed Oni Abdul Hadi, a minister in the new Palestinian government, and Al Sayed Moeen Al Madi, member of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee. The Iraqi gentleman told them that Iraq would recognize the new government when Egypt recognizes it.

Al Ahram also reports that Al Pachachi saw Nokrashi Pasha last night and discussed with him the desirability of concluding a military, economic, and political alliance with Egypt. Nokrashi Pasha welcomed the idea.

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"The American Ambassador visits  
Al Manayel village"

Under the above heading, Al Ahram, the important morning daily, writes: "Mr Stanton Griffis, the American Ambassador, visits the village of Al Manayel to-morrow morning to find out what is taking place in it in the way of social activities and the cooperative system.

"He will be accompanied in this visit by Dr Ahmed Hussein, the Assistant Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Social Affairs".

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Special prominence given to the  
"Middle East bloc".

The Arabic press gives special prominence to an A.P. story in which it is stated that Greek Prime Minister Tsaldaris and Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Khashaba Pasha had a long talk together on September 29th with a view to paving the way towards the formation of a Middle East bloc to comprise Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and Yenan.

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