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Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie de Minister-President

Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY

Plein 1813 no. 4

's-GRAVENHAGE.



U.S.S.R./U.A.R.

SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS THE U.A.R.

The Head of Mission of an Arab State in Western Europe recently lunched with a high ranking Soviet diplomatist.

In the course of conversation the Arab expressed satisfaction at the existing harmony in U.S.S.R./U.A.R. relations. The Russian replied, ostensibly in confidence, that the Soviet experts had come to the conclusion that any major involvement by Russia in the U.A.R. would not be beneficial to his country.

According to these experts, he said, the following per capita expenditure was required:

- \$ 150 for the cure of trachoma
- \$ 200 for the cure of tuberculosis
- \$ 200 for the cure of syphilis
- \$ 150 for the cure of bilharzia.

This made, added the Russian, an average of \$ 700 to allow each citizen to live a healthy life - but with an empty stomach. To feed him, clothe him and house him as well would require enormous sums far surpassing any benefits which Egypt could give Russia in return.

In consequence Russia was not interested in involving herself too deeply in Egypt. The small amount of aid which had been supplied hitherto was justified by the wish to make an "acte de présence" everywhere in the world and to take up the challenge of the West. Besides, observed the Russian, the Americans have the same problems and despite their wish to expel Russia from the Middle East they are no more forthcoming than the Russians in making a positive response to the appeals of the U.A.R. leaders.