

# *Egyptian–Hungarian diplomatic relations between World War I and II*

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Egypt and Hungary have a long common historical past, which is characterized by fruitful diplomatic and political cooperation. The twenty years between 1919 and 1939 included a significant, active, and changeable period in the history of diplomatic and political relation between Hungary and Egypt according to the archive material, other sources and articles of the Egyptian press. The chronological frame of this research has a precise starting-, and end-point. The plan of the establishment of a Hungarian Consulate in Cairo on 10 January 1924 can be regarded as the beginning. The final event was on 30 April 1939 when Miklós Horthy, the son of the regent of Hungary, visited Egypt again to negotiate and discuss with Egyptian officials. The period between 1919 and 1939 has been studied on the basis of the sources of the archive of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the contemporary Arabic, English and French press in Egypt.

## **The historical antecedents of the Egyptian–Hungarian diplomatic relations**

After signing the peace treaty known as “Pozsarevác” between the Habsburgs and the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburg Empire had the possibility to establish a consulate in Alexandria, the second largest Egyptian city and the first commercial center in the country. In 1763 Francesco Agostini became the agent in charge of consular affairs, then the empress, Maria Theresa appointed Agostini in 1785 as a consul in Egypt, and he was followed in 1792 by Carlo Di Rossetti, who was responsible for the General Consulate in Cairo until 1805. When he resigned from his post in 1811 Agostini became responsible again for the consular affairs.<sup>1</sup> The General Consul worked in Cairo till 1819. As a consequence of continuous increasing economic activity and trade of Alexandria, he moved again to Alexandria. Cairo and Damietta had vice-consulates, and there was a consular agency authorized to direct the Consular Affairs in Rashid. In 1834 Anton Laurin was appointed to be general consul, who was an experienced diplomat as there were more and more tasks for the diplomatic corps including navigation, commercial, political, and medical affairs. In 1846 the Habsburg representations were restructured: the General

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<sup>1</sup> In 1819 they appointed George Cavaccó as consul, and Franz Champion as vice-consul.

Consulate in Alexandria supervised both the prosecution Consulate in Cairo, Damietta, as well as the Consular Agency in Rashid and Suez.<sup>2</sup>

The main reason for the establishment of diplomatic representation in Suez and Port Said was the growing trade-traffic coming from India and other eastern countries. On 17 August 1871 Ottó Szillas was sent and appointed as consul in Suez. From 1878 until World War I an honorary consular agency worked in Suez because its role had decreased significantly.<sup>3</sup>

In 1910 the authorities and the geographical division of the diplomatic corps of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were restructured as follows: 1. General Consulate in Cairo, its authorities extended to the whole Egypt; 2. Consulate in Alexandria; 3. Consulate in Cairo (Court consulate as well); 4. Consulate in Port Said (Court consulate as well); 5. Consulate in Khartoum (the Court consulate as well), and its authority included all the Sudanese territory.<sup>4</sup>

After the outbreak of World War I the representative of the United States received the authorities and functions of the Consul of Austria-Hungary in Cairo. The Austrian-Hungarian diplomatic presence lasted in Cairo till September 1914, when General Maxwell, commander of the occupier British army<sup>5</sup> expelled the diplomats and employees of the German and Austro-Hungarian consulates from Egypt. Only one consular officer remained in Cairo until he was arrested by the British army in December 1915.<sup>6</sup>

### **Egyptian–Hungarian diplomatic relations between World War I and II**

After the First World War, the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Hungary became independent as a result of the Treaty of “Trianon”, suffering a terrible loss by losing two thirds of her territory and one third of the inhabitants. The new states around Hungary tried to isolate it with French help. After successful consolidation of the state and

<sup>2</sup> Rudolf Agstner: Von k.k. Konsularagentie... 21–27. Quoted by Komár Krisztián: *Relations between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and Egypt 1882–1914*. PhD Faculty of Arts, University of Szeged, Szeged, 2006. 70.

<sup>3</sup> HHStA, AR. F8. Staaten. Cairo, 1891. June 1. Nr. XXVIII/B/adm. Heidler. In: Komár, 71.

<sup>4</sup> HHStA, AR. F8. ad. Nr. 901. Alexandria, 1882. June 3. Suzzara alexandriai konzul Kossiek kairói főkonzulnak [Suzzara, the consul in Alexandria to Kossiek, the general consul in Cairo]. In: Komár, 72–74.

<sup>5</sup> General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell GCB, KCMG, CVO, DSO (1859–1929) was a British Army officer and colonial regent. Maxwell received a commission into the British Army in 1879. He served on the Western Front in the First World War until he was given command of the Army in Egypt, where he successfully held the Suez Canal against Turkish attack. In 1916 Maxwell was assigned to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief for Northern Command at York. He was promoted in June 1919 to full general and retired in 1922.

<sup>6</sup> Rudolf Agstner: *Der Ballhausplatz und Nordafrika, Studien zur Präsenz von Österreich (-Ungarn) in Kairo, Kossier, Luxor, Tripolis und Bengasi*. Schriften des Österreichischen Kulturinstitutes Kairo Band II., Kairo, 1995. 7–8.

the completion of internal stability, Hungary began to build new foreign relations. So Hungary set up its first diplomatic relations with the Holy Chair.<sup>7</sup>

The plan to establish a Hungarian consulate in Egypt fitted into this framework. *Al-Ahram*, a daily Arabic-language newspaper wrote about this important matter in its political column on 10 January 1924.<sup>8</sup> Thanks to the facilities provided by the Egyptian side, the plan of establishing a Hungarian consulate in Egypt progressed rapidly, and as a consequence, in twenty days, on 1 February 1924 *Al-Ahram* reported that King of Egypt, Fouad received the credentials of the Hungarian General Consul Alfréd Menasce. It was the foundation of the first independent Hungarian General Consulate in Alexandria.<sup>9</sup>

The next important step was taken three years later. *Al-Ahram* on 29 October 1927 mentioned that the Hungarian Plenipotentiary Minister accredited to London had contacted the Egyptian Embassy in the British capital.<sup>10</sup> The newspaper wrote that the Hungarian side intended to establish an embassy<sup>11</sup> in Cairo in order to protect the Hungarian interests and for the development and strengthening of the cooperation between the two countries. In response to the initiative, the Egyptian Office in London sent the Hungarian message to the Egyptian government.<sup>12</sup> A year later, *Al-Ahram* cited reports from Budapest that the Hungarian government agreed to establish a Hungarian Embassy in Cairo, and Félix Parcher will be the first Plenipotentiary Minister of Hungary in Cairo and he will take over the affairs of the embassy from the city of Bern, Switzerland.<sup>13</sup> On 20 February 1928 King Fouad met the first Hungarian Minister Plenipotentiary in the royal palace, who in turn handed over his credentials to his Majesty. The Plenipotentiary Minister discussed the bilateral relations and international problems with the king.<sup>14</sup>

The day after presenting his credentials to the Egyptian King, *Al-Ahram* published an interview with the first Hungarian Plenipotentiary Minister in Cairo, Mr. Félix Parcher on 20 February 1928 on page five. According to the journalist, the Hungarian diplomat was very friendly and met him with pleasure. He was fluent in Arabic and he read *Al-Ahram* daily in order to enrich his Arabic knowledge. He spoke of the Egyptian newspaper with a high esteem, as it was characterized by a balanced picture and it had a leading role in the Arabic world. His Excellency, the Minister Plenipotentiary of Hungary, said that in May 1900, after his graduation, he worked as an attaché in the Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Alexandria and then in Cairo. The journalist emphasized that the Hungarian Minister

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<sup>7</sup> Zombori István: *Diplomatic Relations between Hungary and the Holy Chair 1920–2000*. Szent István Társulat és Magyar Egyháztörténeti Enciklopédia Munkaközösség (METEM), Budapest, 2001. 7.

<sup>8</sup> “Hungarian Consulate-General in Egypt.” *Al-Ahram* 1924/–, 04.

<sup>9</sup> “The Foreign Consulates.” *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> From 1927 to October 3, 1928 Szizosztrisz Szidárúsz Bey was the Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary in London, and on October 4, 1928 was followed by Abdel-Malek Hamza Bey.

<sup>11</sup> The article of *Al-Ahram* wrote that the Hungarian government wanted to establish a consulate in Egypt. This information was incorrect. The journalist made a mistake, instead of writing embassy, he wrote a consulate.

<sup>12</sup> “Hungarian Consulate in Cairo.” *Al-Ahram* 1927/–, 04.

<sup>13</sup> “Establishment of the Hungarian Embassy in Egypt.” *Ibid.* 1928/–, 02.

<sup>14</sup> Abdin Royal Palace Archive, Cairo, February 20, 1928. Archival Document about the event when King Fouad met the first Hungarian Ambassador in the royal palace, and who in turn handed over his credentials to the His Majesty.

Plenipotentiary was affected by Egypt. The diplomat assured that the priority in his diplomatic activity was to strengthen the Egyptian–Hungarian economic and commercial relations. He strove to finalize the talks, which were started by Alfréd Menasce, the Hungarian General Honorary Consul in Alexandria about the commercial agreement between the two countries.<sup>15</sup>

*Al-Ahram* had published in its issue dated on 28 February 1928 the meeting of the new Hungarian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary during his presentation to the credentials to the Majesty King. The Hungarian diplomat said: “Your Majesty! It gives me the honor to present to you the credentials, which were accredited to me by the regent of the Kingdom of Hungary to make me the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to your Majesty. Would Your Majesty let me be the spokesman for the Hungarian regent: Our regent is expressing his great appreciation and affection to your majesty and is wishing happiness, welfare, and progress to Your Majesty, your family, and your people! Your Majesty, allow me to add my great respects. I hope Your Majesty will find it worth to take interest in my efforts to carry out my mission and complete the task we begin today. The purpose of my mission is to consolidate and strengthen friendly relations and promote understanding between the two kingdoms.”

After the last talk, and presentation of credentials, the response of the King but was the following: “Excellency! It gives me pleasure to accept your credentials in this official concert, by which the regent of the Kingdom of Hungary accredited you as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. It is the first time that the Kingdom of Hungary has its representative in my country, which is a great pleasure for me. I expect from the establishment of this representation that it will have a great impact on strengthening friendly relations and bilateral cooperation and on promoting understanding between the two kingdoms, which will produce more benefits. The Hungarian regent’s emotions expressed to me, to my family, and to my country have had the most beautiful effect on me. So accept my sincere thanks give them to his Majesty the Hungarian regent with my hopes for the happiness and prosperity of the Kingdom of Hungary. Thank you for the efforts you will take to complete your mission. I assure you that you can depend on my support and my government’s help.”<sup>16</sup>

Félix Parcher performed his duties as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister in Cairo from the Swiss capital, Bern; he came to Cairo every year staying for two months. *Al-Ahram* published the news on 24 January, 1929 that Hafiz Afifi Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, invited Parcher to a banquet before his departure to Switzerland. Tawfiq Nasim Pasha<sup>17</sup> and a large group of foreign diplomats appeared at the dinner.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Fatah-Allah, Mahmoud: “Quarter with the New Hungarian Minister Plenipotentiary.” *Al-Ahram* 1928/-, 05.

<sup>16</sup> “Between Egypt and Hungary.” *Al-Ahram* 1928/-, 04.

<sup>17</sup> He was considered one of the most important leaders of the National Democratic Party, and was a prime minister several times. He was the best-known political personality in Hungary in the first half of the twentieth century.

<sup>18</sup> “The Hungarian Minister Plenipotentiary.” *Al-Ahram* 1929/-, 04.

Félix Parcher died in 1933 and Dr. Pál Förstner was appointed in his position as temporary chargé d'affaires, who led the Hungarian Embassy in Cairo from Budapest.<sup>19</sup> He had succeeded in signing a trade agreement with the Egyptian side, under which Egyptian cotton was exported to Hungary in exchange for agricultural machines to Egypt.<sup>20</sup>

In 1937 Lajos Rudnay became chargé d'affaires.<sup>21</sup> On 22 December, 1937, *Al-Ahram* published a large photo on its front page and stated that the previous day Lajos Rudnay, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister of Hungary had given his credentials to the king of Egypt.<sup>22</sup>

The head of the embassy moved to Cairo in 1939, and from that time on the ambassador worked in Cairo.<sup>23</sup> Andor Semsey arrived in Cairo as chargé d'affaires,<sup>24</sup> who was from an aristocratic family. Semsey was very fond of hunting, it was his real hobby. He had repeatedly said that he preferred to retire or give up his post in Egypt because he could not practice his favorite hobby there.<sup>25</sup> *Al-Ahram* reported on 22 February 1939 that Semsey had given his credentials to the Egyptian King in Abdin Palace. After the meeting Mr. Ismail Taimour said farewell and good-bye to Semsey. On the first page of the *Al-Ahram* a photo of the Hungarian Minister Plenipotentiary with Ismail Taimour can be seen.<sup>26</sup> The Hungarian Kingdom had his first Embassy in Cairo in the entire African continent, and had continued its work until mid-1941. In April 1941, the Hungarian Plenipotentiary Minister was called back to Budapest.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Rezk, Yunan Labib: *The Egyptian Foreign Ministry 1826–1937*. Al-Haia' Al-Masria Al-Amma Lel-Ketab, Al-Qahira, 1989. 135.

<sup>20</sup> F.O. 407/219 (I) Enc. In No. 49. Annual Report on Heads of Foreign Missions. In: Shakerr, Safaa: *Egyptian Foreign Ministry 1937–1953*. Matbaett Dar Al-Kotobb Aal-Wathaekk Al-Kawmia, Al-Qahira, 2006. 43.

<sup>21</sup> F.O. 407/223 (II) Enc. In No. 34. Annual Report on Heads of Foreign Missions. In: *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> "The Greek and the Hungarian Ministers Plenipotentiary give their credentials to the King." *Al-Ahram* 1937/19136, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

<sup>23</sup> Nagy, Ferenc: *Külgyminisztérium Levéltára (1918–1945)* [The Archives of the Foreign Ministry]. II. kötet. Külgyminisztérium, Utazás- és Útlevelelügyi Osztály, Külképviseletek, Egyéb Szervek, Irathagyatékok Repertórium. Magyar Országos Levéltár, Budapest, 2007. 103.

<sup>24</sup> From Second Counsellor, he got the First Secretary title, chargé d'affaires.

<sup>25</sup> Shakerr, 43.

<sup>26</sup> "The Hungarian Minister Plenipotentiary at Abdin Palace." *Al-Ahram* 1939/19556, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

<sup>27</sup> Sáringer, János: *Documentation à l'histoire de la diplomatie hongroise de 1920 à 1944*. Szegedi Tudományegyetem Bölcsészettudományi Kar, Szeged, 2005. 98.

### Heads of the Hungarian Kingdom's Mission

Félix Parcher (1928. 02. 10 – 1931. 12. 01); he carried out the embassy's tasks from Bern.

Félix Parcher (1931. 12. 01 – 1933. 02. 01); he managed it from Budapest.

Pál Förstner chargé d'affaires (1933. 02. 01 – 1937. 10. 23); he stayed in Cairo.

Lajos Rudnay (1937. 10. 23 – 1939. 01. 14); he managed it from Athens.

Andor Semsey chargé d'affaires (1939. 01. 14 – 1940. 04); he stayed in Cairo.

László Mára chargé d'affaires (1940. 04 – 1941. 04. 07).<sup>28</sup>

Country	City	Number	Nature or Type	Leader	Year
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate General	Alfréd Menasce	1924
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate General	Alfréd Menasce	1925
Egypt	Cairo	1	Honorary Consulate	Moussa Green	1925
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1925
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate General	Alfréd Menasce	1927
Egypt	Cairo	1	Honorary Consulate	Moussa Green	1927
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1927
Egypt	Cairo	1	Honorary Consulate	Moussa Green	1928
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1928
Egypt	Cairo	1	Honorary Consulate	Moussa Green	1929
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1929
Egypt	Cairo	2	Honorary Consulate General	Moussa Green	1930
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1930
Egypt	Cairo	2	Honorary Consulate General	Moussa Green	1932
Egypt	Alexandria	1	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1932
Egypt	Cairo	1	Honorary Consulate	László Páthy	1933

<sup>28</sup> Sáringer, János: *Adattár a magyar külügyi szolgálat történetéhez* [Data Base for the Diplomatic History of Hungary] (1920–1944). Szekipress Kft., Budapest, 2004. 60.

			General	(Polnauer)	
Egypt	Alexandria	2	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1933
Egypt	Alexandria	3	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1934
Egypt	Cairo	1	Alexandrian Consulate Branch	László Menczer	1936
Egypt	Alexandria	3	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1936
Egypt	Cairo	1	Alexandrian Consulate General Branch	György Reichmann	1937
Egypt	Alexandria	3	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1937
Egypt	Cairo	1	Alexandrian Consulate Branch	György Reichmann	1938
Egypt	Alexandria	3	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1938
Egypt	Alexandria	3	Honorary Consulate General	László Páthy (Polnauer)	1941 29

In reciprocity the Egyptian government established an Embassy in Hungary. The Egyptian Plenipotentiary Minister arrived at Budapest. *Al-Ahram* wrote about him on 14 October 1938 quoting from the German news agency: “Mourad Sayed Ahmed Pasha, Plenipotentiary Minister of Egypt had given his credentials to Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary”.<sup>30</sup>

### Miklós Horthy, the son of the regent of Hungary, visits to Egypt

The son of the regent of Hungary, Junior Miklós Horthy’s visit in Egypt had primary importance among the visits of Hungarian politicians and elite in Egypt. On 15 April 1932 the English-speaking *Egyptian Mail* newspaper reported that Horthy had arrived on the ship “Ausonia” to the port of Alexandria as the head of a high-level delegation. The newspaper indicated: “Mr. Horthy is traveling strictly incognito”.<sup>31</sup> On 21 April Horthy visited the Pyramids and the Sphinx in Giza accompanied by Alajos De Paikert the first Hungarian director of Fouad I Agricultural Museum of Cairo and by Mr. Burghoffer. The report

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* 95–177.

<sup>30</sup> “The Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary in Budapest.” *Al-Ahram* 1938/–, 08. The Egyptian accredited Ministers Plenipotentiary to Budapest were: from Austria Ahmed El Kadry bey (1936. 11. 17 – 1938); Ahmed Mourad Sid pasa (1938. 10. 12 – 1940); Mohamed Soliman El Hout bey chargé d’affaires (1940); Abdel Kerim Safvat chargé d’affaires (1940. 04. 13 – 1942). From 1943 the embassy was directed from Switzerland. Sáringer: *Adattár...* 60.

<sup>31</sup> “Hungarian Regent’s Son in Alexandria.” *Egyptian Mail* 1932/6005, 03.

appeared on the first page of the newspaper with a large photo of the guests.<sup>32</sup> On 25 April *Al-Ahram* published a long article on the son of the regent of the Hungarian Kingdom. The newspaper reported: "In spite of the young age of the son of the Hungarian regent, Mr. Miklós Horthy is the director of the Hungarian English Bank and works in business. While staying in Egypt he took the opportunity to negotiate with the experts of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Credit Bank to do business between Egypt and Hungary." The guest suggested that Hungary should buy a significant quantity of cotton from the Egyptian government and Hungary should pay for it by building factories, rice stores, and exporting fertilizers to the Egyptian side. The Hungarian guest visited the Ministry of Finance and Agriculture several times to discuss the matter accompanied by László Polnauer, the Hungarian General Consul in Alexandria, and by the famous trader Landman.<sup>33</sup>

On 14 February 1934 *Al-Ahram* carried the news that Horthy junior left Rome for Alexandria on the ship "Calitia".<sup>34</sup> After three days, he arrived at the port of Alexandria, where he was greeted by László Polnauer, the Hungarian Honorary General Consul. The Hungarian politicians appeared in a large photo on the first page of *Al-Ahram*, the most popular the Arabic newspaper, which reflected the importance of the visit of the honored guest.<sup>35</sup>

On 25 February 1938 *Al-Ahram* indicated that Miklós Horthy had stayed in Egypt for a few weeks, and that on 24 February 1938 he left for Europe. He was accompanied to the port of Alexandria by László Polnauer, the Hungarian Honorary General Consul in Alexandria and by some illustrious members of the Hungarian community in Egypt.<sup>36</sup>

On 8 February 1939 *Al-Ahram* said that Miklós Horthy junior arrived at Alexandria a day before and was accompanied by the sister of Princess Károly. Mr. László Polnauer, the Hungarian Honorary General Consul in Alexandria received them. They were to travel to Cairo the next day. *Al-Ahram* published a large photo about Horthy and the Hungarian Honorary General Consul on the front page.<sup>37</sup> On 11 February the newspaper mentioned that Ahmed Maher Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Finance met Miklós Horthy junior in his office, where they discussed economic and commercial bilateral cooperation.<sup>38</sup> On 30 April *Al-Ahram* indicated that the Hungarian regent's son and the sister of Károly travelled from Alexandria toward Hungary after a visit lasting for several weeks.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>32</sup> "Hungarian Regent's son at the pyramids." *Egyptian Mail* 1932/6009, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

<sup>33</sup> "Commercial Deals between Egypt and Hungary – Miklós Horthy's efforts." *Al-Ahram* 1932/-, 06.

<sup>34</sup> "Hungarian Regent's Son is coming towards Egypt." *Al-Ahram* 1934/-, 04.

<sup>35</sup> "Horthy arrives in Alexandria, and the Hungarian General Honorary Consul receives him." *Al-Ahram* 1934/17671, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

<sup>36</sup> "Hungarian Regent's Son." *Al-Ahram* 1938/-, 09.

<sup>37</sup> "Hungarian Regent's Son." *Al-Ahram* 1939/19542, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

<sup>38</sup> "Miklós Horthy met the Minister of Finance." *Al-Ahram* 1939/-, 08.

<sup>39</sup> "Hungarian Regent's Daughter." *Al-Ahram* 1939/19622, 1<sup>st</sup> page.

### Sedky Pasha, the Egyptian Prime Minister's visit to Budapest

On 2 February 1932 the Egyptian authorities declared that the Hungarian government had the honor to invite the Prime Minister of Egypt to visit the Budapest officially, in order to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries.<sup>40</sup> On 26 February *Al-Ahram* reported the following news: "The Consul of Hungary met the day before yesterday Ismail Sedky Pasha and informed him that the Hungarian government bestowed him with the greatest scarf of merit, the highest medal of Hungary and only the Prime Minister of Italy received it before from the leaders of governments."<sup>41</sup>

On 29 August 1932 *Al-Ahram* reported in its political column that Sedky Pasha, the prime minister had traveled yesterday morning to Geneva, heading to the Hungarian capital Budapest, and this is the first visit of an Egyptian Prime Minister to Hungary after the First World War.<sup>42</sup> The newspapers in Rome described the visit in detail. The reception of the Egyptian officials was favorable, the visit can be regarded as very successful.<sup>43</sup> In honor of the Prime Minister and his delegation Miklós Horthy, the regent of Hungary had made a dinner gala, and after the dinner, the Egyptian Prime Minister told reporters that the goal of the talks with the Hungarian officials was to strengthen the economic and commercial relations between the two countries and added that Egypt should export cotton to Hungary and the Egyptians would import industrial products from Hungary.<sup>44</sup>

The relations between Egypt and Hungary were cut off during the Second World War. In February 1942 Egypt had declared its position of neutrality as a result of the British pressure on it and supported the British, at the same time Hungary stood with the Germans.

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<sup>40</sup> Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Archive, Cairo, 0075-050593, February 02, 1932. The Hungarian government invites the Prime Minister of Egypt to visit the Hungarian capital.

<sup>41</sup> "The Hungarian government bestowed the prime minister with the greatest scarf of merit." *Al-Ahram* 1932/-, 06.

<sup>42</sup> "Sedky Pasha in the Hungarian Capital." *Al-Ahram* 1932/-, 04.

<sup>43</sup> "Ismail Sedky Pasha's Visit to Hungary." *Al-Ahram* 1932/-, 02.

<sup>44</sup> "Sedky Pasha in the Hungarian Capital." *Al-Ahram* 1932/-, 06.