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SUEZ TREATY SIGNED.

The Suez Canal, for long the trouble-centre of the Middle East, is soon to see the end of British Military occupation. Talks between British and Egyptian authorities have been going on for many months, but now at the Pharaonic Hall of the Egyptian Parliament, they reach their climax. Colonel Nasser, the Egyptian Prime Minister, and Mr. Nutting, the British Minister of State attend the signing of an agreement on the Canal base.

Major Salem, the Dancing Mayor, puts his signature to the document which creates wild rejoicing in the streets of the capital. There are shouts of congratulation for the Prime Minister who acknowledges them from the balcony. There is no sign of President Neguib whose power has been greatly weakened by Nasser, Egypt's present strong-man. Under the agreement just signed, 40,000 British troops will be withdrawn within a year. The remaining 35,000 will have left by June 1956. However, in the event of an attack upon Turkey or an Arab State, British troops may return. Because of this clause, the present Suez Canal Base will be kept in efficient working order. A further clause gives British civilians the right to maintain installations.

Already British troops have begun the evacuation; their leaving closes a chapter of British history - it was a chapter that started in hope - now the sombre ending is written.