

Reference:


FO 371/118999

117919

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M.P.H. 22  
 Mrs. Watson  
 A.S. AR JE 11927/  
 25/9  
 Date advised



BRITISH EMBASSY  
 CAIRO

September 16, 1956.

SECRET

Nasser described to Glade-Baker on September 15 his plans for guerilla action in case of a British attack on Egypt. He said that the Egyptian Army would fight regular battles, but that if people in England thought that the war would be over in forty-eight hours, they were very much mistaken. The whole of the subsequent guerilla campaign was already organised throughout the Delta. Each group had secret headquarters and no one knew who the others were. Wireless sets and methods of communication were all ready. There was a secret headquarters in Cairo also. If he was killed, his successor was nominated, and the succession down the line was already determined. If the British put in a new President or Prime Minister, he would be murdered within twenty-four hours. Guerilla organisations were also ready in Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat and Aden.

Yours ever.



A.D.M. Ross, Esq., C.M.G.,  
 Foreign Office,  
 London, S.W.1.

(will you please show this  
 to Tupper Evans)

Rec'd too late.  
 12/79

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FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE SECRET AND  
WHITEHALL SECRET DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan  
No. 1587  
August 15, 1956.

D. 10.50 p.m. August 15, 1956.  
R. 12.18 a.m. August 16, 1956.

PRIORITY  
DEDIP

*JE 11924 /*

\*[Received without security classification]

Suez Canal.

Following for Kirkpatrick.

There are some indications here of Nasser's plans in the event of an armed attack by us and the French. Formation of the "National Liberation Army", which is the Egyptian Home Guard based on the National Guard with provision for its decentralisation, measures taken to give military training to civilians and students and special provisions for grant of gun licences to Fellaheen indicate that the Egyptian Government are thinking of guerilla operations in case of a British attack. They probably expect that the Egyptian armed forces would be defeated in a short period and plan, in that case, to disrupt the security forces and Administration and for many of the free officers to go underground and conduct guerilla warfare against any foreign force on the Canal or elsewhere and against any alternative Government set up by the British or French. Salah Salem's statement about sabotaging the Canal and Nasser's statement about total war are an indication of this line of thought.

2. This type of action could of course cause prolonged and serious disturbances after the end of hostilities proper and make things very difficult for a new Government, who in these circumstances would have to face the odium of compromise with foreign occupation forces.

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SECRET

JE 1027/1

Mr Ross  
Foreign Dept

8/17/56

Enter

A 10 Downing Street  
Whitehall

August 17, 1956.

My dear John,

JE 11927/1G

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Humphrey Trevelyan's telegram (No. 1587) of August 15 about the Suez Canal. On this the Prime Minister has minuted:-

"Foreign Secretary. Tell him to cheer up!

A.E."

Yours ever,  
Philip

J.A.N. Graham, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.