

*Egyptian Armament*

"Mr. Dulles mentioned that the Egyptians had recently offered to buy from the United States a substantial (for them) quantity of tanks, guns and ammunition; that they had hinted that they would buy from the Russians if we didn't sell to them. Eden thought this latter would be bad, but doubted that the Russians would sell to the Egyptians.

"Mr. Dulles said he thought we would make the sale; that it couldn't be aid because the Egyptians would not make the kind of agreement in connection with aid that our laws require.

"Eden said the British were furnishing some small amount of armaments to the Egyptians; that the French were too; that some of it was being resold through Libya to the Arabs and shot back at the French in Morocco and Algeria." (Eisenhower Library, Project Clean Up)

For a summary of those sections of the conversation related to the Middle East and to the Alpha project, see Document 171.

165. Telegram From the Embassy in Egypt to the Department of State<sup>1</sup>

*Cairo, July 20, 1955--noon.*

104. As recommendations mytel 10, July 2,<sup>2</sup> were made only after consideration of dilemma described Deptel 127,<sup>3</sup> I find it impossible, in light of what I understand to be basic United States objectives in this part of world to alter my previous strong recommendation that we attempt to meet expeditiously and without substantial reduction Egypt's requirements as listed Embtel 11.<sup>4</sup>

While of course Department at present confronted many issues of overriding importance feel I have apparently not been able adequately communicate consequences of foreign policy in ME area which I believe would follow if we deny Egypt's request. It seems to

<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of State, Central Files, 674.84A/7-2055. Top Secret; Priority; Received at 1:26 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Document 143.

<sup>3</sup> Telegram 127, July 18, informed Byroade that "favorable action on Egyptian request will place us under strong pressure grant Israel permission purchase similar quantity comparable equipment." It asked Byroade whether, in view of this, he would still recommend favorable action on the Egyptian request or if a "substantial reduction in Egyptian list and correspondingly smaller sale to Israel" would be advisable? (Department of State, Central Files, 674.84A/7-1455)

<sup>4</sup> Document 160.