

tralism and non-alignment that bear on the forthcoming conference. The subject matter of Nasser's letter—which I found interesting—gives a good opening.

As you know, I do not regard myself as a Middle East expert. My only firm conclusion is that we want a paper that argues some of the issues beyond the present memo.²

² A brief June 7 note from McChes to Talbot, attached to the source text, reads: "Rostow remains unconvinced. Why don't you make an appointment and talk with him about this?" A June 19 memorandum from Strong to Talbot indicates that Rostow, Rusk, and Talbot discussed the status of U.S. efforts to take full advantage of current opportunities in U.S.-UAR relations on June 10. (Department of State, Central Files, 611863/6-1961) No memorandum of this conversation has been found. The June 19 memorandum from Strong to Talbot also describes 10 different areas of U.S. efforts to improve relations with the United Arab Republic. For text, see Supplement, the compilation on the United Arab Republic.

64. Editorial Note

On June 7, 1961, Senator J. William Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reviewed with Ambassador Kamel several items relating to U.S.-UAR relations. Kamel mentioned, among other points, that it would help improve relations if P.L. 480 assistance to his country were put on a multi-year basis. A member of Fulbright's staff subsequently read the memorandum of this conversation over the telephone to someone in Rostow's office at the White House. (Kennedy Library, National Security Files, Country Series, United Arab Republic, 1/61-6/61)

On June 8, Rostow mentioned the Fulbright-Kamel conversation during a telephone conversation with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Ball and added, according to notes of the conversation: "the President is anxious to get closer to this fellow." Rostow continued that the "White House thought there was a possibility in the long term PL 480 for initiating and maintaining closer working relations with the UAR." Ball responded that he liked the idea; and Rostow said that he would contact George McGovern, Director of Food for Peace, about it. (*Ibid.*, Ball Papers, Telephone Conversations, United Arab Republic)

On June 9, Komer apparently sent to Rostow Bowles' May 16 memorandum to Kennedy regarding a possible Nasser visit to the United States (Document 48) under cover of the following note:

"In the light of Nasser's apparent growing differences with Moscow, his continued economic difficulties especially in Syria, and in view