

No. 96

780.57/10-1752: Circular telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to Certain Diplomatic Missions in the Near East*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, October 17, 1952—8:26 p. m.

450. Part II of II. Depts tentative views on UK proposals follow:

I. Numbering corresponds to that in Part I this message.

A.1. Dept agrees probably desirable present Arabs written statement. Arab States will certainly discuss proposal among themselves and desirable for them have solid basis for purpose.

Procedure suggested for providing Arab reaction seems appropriate. Leaves to them decision whether they wish continue discussion and does not imply inaction their part will constitute veto. Further consideration necessary as to just how possible discussions with Arab reps might best be handled. If several states favorably disposed, might possibly be desirable invite them to mtg with sponsors.

2. Agree multilateral *démarche* awkward but not certain re practical effect principle proposed. Missions comments this point particularly requested.

3. Re approach to Egypt, Dept inclined feel wld be desirable make separate and very informal approach prior to gen round with other Arab States. Realize risk this may cause injured feelings other Arab States, but desirability doing everything possible enlist Egyptian support obvious. Moreover, prior overture Egypt justifiable on ground Egypt originally invited become sponsor. Dept agrees Emb Cairo approach best made after Brit have offered some conciliatory gesture, feels perhaps agreement release jet planes wld serve. Not thought Egypt wld wish become sponsor nor that discussions wld proceed far without involving whole problem of Suez settlement. Nevertheless, appears there might be significant advantages in according Egypt priority suggested. Approaches other Arab States shld be made simultaneously some time after initial approaches to Egypt.

B. Re text of proposed communication, Dept feels that in gen even for limited purpose indicated, statement too sketchy and not calculated make maximum possible appeal to Arabs. Re numbered paras:

1. No comment.

¹ Sent to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, and Ankara, and repeated for information to London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Wellington, Canberra, and Pretoria. Drafted by Dasplit and cleared by NE, GTI, BNA, and S/S.