

states brought in, then others might fol. He thought that it was desirable to sound out Iraqis first and, in view his conv with Regent, suggested Turks undertake do so. If Iraqi agrmt can be obtained, then either Iraq or UK might attempt bring in Jordan. Next step might then be to try bring in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

FonOff indicated Menderes felt present moment propitious for splitting Arab states on this question. Arab League not at present effective org and there are increasing indications that monarchial states beginning look askance at republican tendencies in Egypt.

Re Egypt, Menderes thought it wld be best not to raise question MEDO participation at this time, but to let matter rest until progress cid be shown in Anglo-Egyptian prob.

FonOff added that all Brit reps in the field who have been consulted re proposals set forth Brit memo contained Depcirtel 449 have been unanimous in viewpoint that these are wrong tactics to pursue with Arab states.

Emb off recalled that gen tactics which Menderes suggested re approach Arab states were essentially those suggested by Brit some months ago. He recalled that we had felt strongly at time that they were open grave difficulties. He expressed appreciation for info and anticipated Dept might have some observations when Dept formally informed of talks by Brit and Turks.

FonOff also indicated that no points of any importance had been discussed re organizational aspects of MEDO, discussions having been mainly restricted question tactical approach to Arabs.

GIFFORD

No. 98

780.5/10-2152: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

CAIRO, October 21, 1952—4 p. m.

1007. Before noting specific content Depcirtels 449 and 450,² Oct 17, and in full concurrence with Dept's view that Egypt is key to Arab acceptance or rejection MEDO concept I desire submit fol observations re sitn here:

1. Egypt will not participate as partner with Britain in any MEDO concept unless British announce acceptance principle of evacuation Canal Zone and actually begin evacuation troops

¹ Repeated to London, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Jidda, Damascus, Paris, Rome, Tel Aviv, and Ankara.

² Documents 95 and 96.