

he could only express a personal view but he thought his government would prefer the matter to rest until we were completely ready to discuss it bilaterally and if this meant waiting until some later stage, he thought this would be agreeable to Pakistan.

No. 117

780.5/1-2353: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Turkey*¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 13, 1953—7:35 p. m.

1028. Following information regarding imminent US-UK discussions with Egyptians may be relayed to Turks after you have ascertained that British Ambassador has implemented instructions from his Foreign Office, copy of which enclosed with London's despatch #3347, January 23 (copy to Ankara).² If copy not yet received assume British Ambassador will make Foreign Office memorandum available to you.

Now that UK-Egyptian agreement has been reached on the Sudan, US and UK intend open negotiations with Egypt in endeavor to secure its association in arrangements for defense of Middle East on following basis: 1) phased withdrawal from Egypt of British forces; 2) retention of peacetime base in Canal Zone; 3) provisions for air defense of Egypt; 4) Egyptian participation in MEDO; and 5) UK and US military and economic assistance to Egypt.

Point 4) above, on which US and UK would negotiate on behalf of sponsoring powers, considered essential part of package deal in order to avoid vacuum in Middle East defense and to justify supply of arms to Egypt. Should Egyptians wish consult other Arab governments before agreeing in principle to participate in MEDO, US and UK would be prepared, on behalf of or in cooperation with sponsoring powers, to make prior approach to Arab governments in order to enable Egyptians to discuss position with them on basis that those governments will equally have opportunity to participate in organization.

Regarding enclosure London's despatch #3374 [3347], US has not yet agreed memorandum should be used as basis for initial MEDO approach. This Government feels strongly that tactics to be pur-

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 5412; drafted by Snyder; and cleared by NE, BNA, S/S-CR, and GTL

² Not printed. (780.5/1-2353)