

Views of addressees requested soonest on points below to assist in formulation Department position for discussion with British.

1. Best procedure for getting parties together for discussion either through UN or in event such efforts prove fruitless by other means.

2. Specific measures which might be taken by Western Powers, UNTSO and parties to improve border machinery and general border situation.

SMITH

No. 797

684A.86/4-1654: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET PRIORITY

CAIRO, April 16, 1954—1 p. m.

1309. My comments on two points in Department's telegram 1274² are following:

1. Prospects for getting parties together through UN at SC or GA level to discuss general settlement are dim at this time. This leaves UNTSO and MACs as only UN bodies where there is hope of getting parties together and nibbling at problem of improved frontier control (only subject now open for discussion).

2. From discussions with Egyptian authorities and some of MAC chairmen following specific measures should help improve border situation and machinery:

(a) Considerable expansion UN observers corps.

(b) UN translators to conduct interrogations.

(c) More thorough briefing of UN personnel before they assume duties as observers or MAC chairmen.

(d) Pressure on parties to create and observe network of local commanders, and police agreements.

Even-handed treatment of incidents will do more than anything to assure Arab cooperation. Key element such treatment involves differentiating between individual acts and those instigated or obviously condoned by governments. UN originated publicity would appear best means maintain this distinction.

CAFFERY

¹ Sent also to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Jidda, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem; repeated to London and Paris.

² Printed as telegram 407 to Amman, Apr. 15, *supra*.