

Egyptian Ambassador referred Azmi's statement Israel getting three times the tonnage through Canal this year as last saying Eban has never refuted it. ²

Suggest Embassy Cairo raise with Foreign Office procedures suggested for passage ship through Canal and point out again our understanding long period lull might result following transit of ship. Israel afternoon Dec 20 requested SC meeting. FYI We trying forestall meeting for week or two (if possible until New Zealand assumes SC Presidency) basis we continuing discuss with GOE.

DULLES

² A memorandum of this conversation is in file 674.84A/12-2054.

No. 941

NEA files, lot 59 D 518, "Washington Talks, Jan.-Feb. 1955: Memos, etc. preceding actual meetings (Dated 11/15/54 thru 1/27/55)"

*Francis H. Russell to the Chargé in the United Kingdom
(Butterworth)*

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 21, 1954.

DEAR WALT: I am enclosing a letter which I would appreciate your passing along to Shuckburgh unless, of course, you see some objection in this procedure, in which case I hope you will give him its contents orally.

Our thinking at this date is still so fluid with respect to our tactics on the problem that I thought it unwise to be more specific than I was in the letter to Shuckburgh. I will make every effort to keep you au courant as, hopefully, we make some progress toward formulating our views.

Both the Secretary and Mr. Hoover have voiced to me personally their great concern that as near complete secrecy as possible be maintained. As one means toward this end we have set up the "Alpha" code word to limit distribution of all documents pertaining to the project. The code is, however, only for our own use and we are not informing the British of it.

It was good seeing you again in London and I am looking forward to an early renewal of our discussions.

Sincerely,

FRANCIS H. RUSSELL

P.S. I expect shortly to be designated as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. This is purely for cover purposes. Ostensibly I will be advising Carl McCardle on foreign policy aspects of USIA programs.