

Sir Christopher said that since Sir Oliver Franks had seen the Secretary only the day before yesterday, there would be no need to ask to see the Secretary tomorrow. However, perhaps the Secretary would want to discuss the matter and might wish to ask Sir Oliver to come to see him.

No. 952

774.00/1-2752

*Memorandum of Telephone Conversation, by the Special Assistant
to the Secretary of State (Battle)*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, January 27, 1952—6 p. m.

Subject: Egyptian developments.

Participants: The Secretary
British Ambassador
(Mr. L.D. Battle
Mr. G. Lewis Jones—present)

The Secretary telephoned the British Ambassador about 6:00 p.m., today from his residence and spoke in the following sense:

The Secretary had received Mr. Eden's message of January 25 regarding the contemplated police action at Ismailia. He was sorry that that action had not worked out as Mr. Eden had hoped and expected. "The whole thing looks bad".

The Secretary understood Mr. Eden was considering the issuance of a conciliatory message: The U.S. favored the early issuance of such a message.

(The British Ambassador at this point advised the Secretary of the news over the radio that the King had formed a new cabinet.)¹

The Secretary said that if the cabinet has changed, this would indicate even more strongly the need for a conciliatory message.

Speaking very personally the Secretary said that it did not impress him that the operation of Ismailia had been carried out with "unusual skill". He said the "splutter of musketry" apparently does not stop things as we had been told from time to time that it would. The Secretary said that Ambassador Caffery is doing everything possible to prevent Egyptians from taking such retaliatory measures as breaking diplomatic relations.

¹ Ambassador Caffery in Cairo informed the Department of State in telegram 1166, Jan. 27, not printed, that Farouk had appointed Ali Maher Pasha to be the new Prime Minister of Egypt. (774.13/1-2752) This followed the Jan. 26 incident in Cairo in which mobs looted and burned without restraint for most of the day.