

"5. In all these matters we should, of course, continue to work closely with our American and other allies".

GIFFORD

No. 954

641.74/1-2852: Telegram

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

SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, January 28, 1952—7:58 p. m.

1098. 1. Dept authorizes you, to support action by Stevenson on Eden's message, London's 3259 Jan 28, which is clearly in right direction.

2. Dept hopes UK will maintain utmost flexibility in agenda discussions since there is possibility "four-power proposals" have a particularly unpleasant ring Egyptian ears this time. Proposals, of course, stand and would, we hope, be hub talks once started, but if play-down proposals would assist getting parties around table we think that proposals need not be stressed. Perhaps it might be more efficacious for UK to suggest talks on all outstanding differences including both defense and Sudan. We do not believe Sudan excludable from talks, however desirable that might be.

3. Dept believes there is no harm in UK attempting trade public statement for halt terrorist activities and anti-Brit measures (para 4 refel) but believes UK well advised not to be too rigid if statement would reduce popular Egyptian pressure which new Govt attempting to combat. Long run capabilities new Govt unproven. Govt might not be able fulfill its side of trade unless assisted by Brit statement in advance.

4. Re para 5 we agree multilateral character defense proposals to Egypt very important element, significance of which Egyptians have largely failed appreciate and that in consequence this good line for UK. In this connection, however, we must avoid impression four-powers "ganging up" on Egypt to force upon it their combined will. On the contrary, idea four-powers is to harmonize interest of Egypt with interest free world in ME security.

¹ Repeated priority to London as telegram 3565. Drafted and approved by G. Lewis Jones, Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs.