

No. 958

641.74/2-1252

*Memorandum by the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Berry) to the Secretary of State*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1952.

Subject: Discussions with Mr. Eden re Egypt.²

We believe that in talks with Mr. Eden on Egypt early reference by you to the need for speed in starting Anglo-Egyptian talks on *all* outstanding questions will probably be most useful. NEA has prepared for your use a factual memorandum on the status of these negotiations (attached)³ and Wells Stabler has prepared for you a memorandum on his observations in the Sudan (attached).⁴ The gist of the latter is that the presence or absence of violent reaction in the Sudan will depend upon the faithfulness and earnestness with which the officials of the Sudan Government undertake to explain recognition of the King's title as being in the context of self-determination. Reassurances on the latter point will be needed but if riots should occur the Sudan Government is fully capable of restoring order.

Mr. Eden's greatest preoccupation is with the often repeated promise of the British Government to "consult" the Sudanese before making any changes in Sudan policy. This is a "moral" problem in the eyes of Mr. Eden and many other members of Parliament and hence the undertaking to "consult" must be respected. At the same time we should urge simple and rapid consultation as being of the greatest importance if the prospective Anglo-Egyptian negotiations are not to stall at an early stage for the lack of "something on the Sudan". We think this should be acceptance of the title "King of the Sudan" within the framework of early and free self-determination.

An opening gambit with Mr. Eden might be to ask whether there is any word yet regarding the resumption of negotiations and to tell him that your last information on the subject was Ambassador Caffery's comment on February 11 that "attempting to begin conversations on the Defense Proposals without frankly facing the

¹ Drafted by Jones.

² See telegram Secto 7 from London, Document 960.

³ Not found in Department of State files.

⁴ Not printed. (110.22 NE/2-1052)