

## No. 982

Conference files, lot 59 D 95, CP 110

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, May 14, 1952.

Subject: Anglo-Egyptian Situation: Proposed Approach to the British on the Sudan

*Discussion:*

We have been informed by Ambassador Caffery that both the King and the Prime Minister have stated to him that the Sudan formula which was presented by Sir Ralph Stevenson will be rejected but that the door will not be closed to further negotiations. It had been anticipated that the rejection would be given to the British on Monday, May 12, but so far this has not been confirmed. However, it is believed that we should consider what further steps we should take once rejection has been definitely confirmed. It should be noted that even though the door may not be closed to negotiation, in practice it is doubtful there will be anything on which to negotiate until the question of the title is settled. The expected rejection of the formula will confirm once more that nothing short of recognition by the United Kingdom of the King of Egypt's title as King of the Sudan will be acceptable to Egypt as the "price" of negotiations on the base question.

Since Egypt is apparently unwilling to negotiate on the base question or on the Sudan without a formula acceptable to it (which means recognition) and since the British will not consider recognition without consulting the Sudanese which they hold can only be done after negotiations with Egypt on the intent and implications of recognition, it would appear that the Anglo-Egyptian conversations are at an impasse. This problem of recognition has become the one easily discernible and fairly well defined obstacle in the Anglo-Egyptian talks and it would therefore seem imperative that this obstacle be eliminated if progress is to be made. It is not only possible but likely that other obstacles to settlement will arise as we go along but we believe that every effort should be made to eliminate each obstacle as it becomes discernible and defined, such as in the case of the recognition of the title.

For the time being the question of a formula is in abeyance since no agreement on the Sudan can be reached. Consequently one of the parties will have to take action to move the problem off dead center. The British insist that they must have prior consultation