

Secy expressed belief that if establishment Sudanese Parliament awaited, Sudanese wld be so strongly headed toward policy of no Egypt sovereignty that favorable response to title cld not be expected. It wld then be necessary to deal with Canal Base question in bad atmosphere and this in itself might lead to more rioting. This in turn wld raise use of force to protect base and possibly UK and Fon nationals. Secy emphasized that once one gets started on this road it is most difficult to stop.

Secy ended discussion by saying that we wld continue, in consultation with Caffery, to see if there was any way we cld help do impossible i.e. separate Sudan and Canal Base issues so that somehow Base question which is heart of matter cld be dealt with.

ACHESON

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 No. 993

745W.002-1752 Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, July 18, 1952—7:05 p. m.

437. Dept believes forthcoming visit Mahdi to Egypt may offer good opportunity for Egypt and pro-independence Sudanese work out their diffs and mutual suspicions. We believe UK might well take occasion formally encourage Egypt and Sudanese in these contacts. Utility so doing underscored by Sirry approach to Brits reported London's 315 July 17<sup>2</sup> and his conv with Caffery reported Cairo tel 91 July 17.<sup>3</sup> It wld also seem offer "peg" sought by FonOff (London's 354 July 18).<sup>4</sup> Dept most concerned by statement

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo as telegram 108. Drafted by Stabler and approved by Secretary Acheson.

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 315 from London, July 17, not printed, Ambassador Gifford reported the Foreign Office had told him the previous evening that several days before Sirry Pasha had suggested to a British Embassy representative in Cairo that the two governments should resume conversations on the Sudan and the Suez Canal defense questions. (745W.00/7-1752)

<sup>3</sup> Ambassador Caffery, in telegram 91 from Cairo, July 17, not printed, informed the Department that he had spoken with Sirry Pasha the previous day, and that Sirry had expressed the conviction that the Mahdi would do whatever the British told him to do; therefore, he would refuse to recognize Farouk's title. Sirry, however, declared his determination not to "let matter of Sudan title be put in moth balls." (774.00/7-1752)

<sup>4</sup> In telegram 354 from London, July 18, not printed, Gifford reported that the British Minister of Embassy in Cairo, Creswell, had just had a conversation with Sirry Pasha, who repeated his charges that the British were influencing the Mahdi not to recognize Farouk's title. Creswell denied the charge, and Sirry, later in the conversation, indicated he might be willing to conduct conversations about the de-

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