

mil wld be initial favorable impact UK offer settlement. We feel Brits wld stand to gain in long run if they decided beforehand what pts they are likely have to concede and offered them in generous spirit, thereby creating climate favorable to successful negots.

8. Pls discuss above with FonOff soonest and say that we shld be glad to have oppy study proposals in hope reaching common agreement. This in turn wld enable us if and when time comes to help put them over.

BRUCE

No: 999

641.74/8-562: Telegram

*The Chargé in the United Kingdom (Holmes) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, August 5, 1952—7 p. m.

648. In course conv today, Emb off discussed with FonOff gist of Deptel 811, Aug 4. FonOff official expressed opinion that many of indications which had come to it of willingness younger mil officers connected with coup to coop with West in def matters were prompted by desire obtain equip. He said FonOff view is that it wld be mistake comply with such requests until it were clear that Egypt wld coop in ME def. Nevertheless, FonOff agreed there is some hope in present sitn of splitting def and Sudan questions at proper time. He confirmed that renewed consideration being given UK def proposals at present time so that UK wld be prepared insofar as possible take advantage of any break in sitn as soon as it occurred. There are still many aspects of prob which UK must clarify before entering negots, but FonOff fully aware of this and working levels are doing necessary spade work. He was sure that in any event UK wld want discuss def proposals with US before putting them to Egypts, since close US-UK coordination might well be crucial in persuading Egypts to accept them.

Official then noted that Ali Maher has indicated he does not want discuss Sudan prob at present time. This raises problems for UK, since it must submit its comments on new Sudan constitution by Nov 8, which is expiry date of six months. Comments shld really be submitted before that time, since present plan is to hold elections in Sudan in Nov and time will be required to make necessary preparations. It wld still seem logical that UK and Egypt shld co-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 47.