

delay, that the London FonOff tactics seem to be delaying tactics also. He denies the Brit contention that in his agreement with the Mahdi the comm with GovGen was to be merely advisory. He says there is no difference between his agreement with the Mahdi and his pertinent note to the Brit.

He wound up by saying "I may be dreaming but if you could find a way to let us have 100 tanks various doors would be opened including one leading to Middle Eastern Defense."

CAFFERY

No. 1034

745W.00/11-2552 Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Gifford) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, November 25, 1952—7 p. m.

[Received 7:11 p.m.]

2970. In course conversation on Egypt today, Emb off reverted to indications of deterioration in internal position Naguib regime as compelling reason for earlier and fuller support. (Embtel 2919 Nov 22)² Emb off found FonOff appreciative problems involved. Official to whom we spoke expressed awareness Naguib's need for some political triumph and thought settlement Sudan issue would help him. Official somewhat apprehensive, however, that Naguib had so impaired his flexibility as result public statement which made subsequent Robertson's conversation with him, that necessary give and take in negotiations lacking on Egyptian side. Official govt asked Naguib's assurances prior Robertson conversation that Sudan proposals not immutable, with hardened attitude reflected in latter conversation with Stevenson. UK prepared be as flexible as possible in negotiations, but could not grant everything Naguib desired.

Reverting to present indications of instability in Naguib regime, FonOff official felt most of these were economic in cause. While appreciating long range desirability of arms aid for Egypt, he ques-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 157.

² Ambassador Gifford reported in telegram 2919, Nov. 22, not printed, that an Embassy representative had advanced the argument at the Foreign Office that the deteriorating domestic position of the Naguib regime was a compelling reason to exert every effort to reach an early agreement on the Sudan. Foreign Office officials were aware of the situation but were unable to move quickly because of Eden's absence in New York. Therefore, the Foreign Office would be unable to give Stevenson guidance by Nov. 24 on the points which had arisen in his conversation with Naguib on Nov. 20. (745W.00/11-2252)