

21. To obtain these facilities is the paramount object of the negotiations. (774.5/1-1453)

No. 1062

774.5/1-153: Telegram

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Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY

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3610. Following is abbreviated text UK paper entitled "Military Assistance to Egypt—Supply of Arms and Warlike Equipment"² handed to us today by Foreign Office for discussion during talks on Egypt. Such comments as Department and Cairo may wish make urgently would be appreciated.

"I. Supplies from United Kingdom.

1. Since October 1951 when Egyptian Government denounced 1936 Treaty UK has maintained, subject to certain recent exceptions, complete embargo on supply arms and warlike equipment Egypt. Chief exceptions are:

(a) In October 1952 embargo on supply maintenance spares, other than arms, for operational aircraft was lifted. At same time HMG agreed to release consignment Chipmunk trainer aircraft to Egypt.

(b) In November we agreed to release 15 Meteor jet aircraft (12 fighters and 3 trainers).

(c) In December we approved export certain machine tools, engines, and sets of components required in connection with manufacture of Vampire aircraft in Egypt and some spares and minor items, mostly non-lethal, for Egyptian army.

2. All above equipment had been on order for several years. It was released as gesture goodwill towards GOE.

3. As regards remainder equipment on order by Egypt in UK it is by no means certain that she still requires all. At suitable moment she will probably be invited to submit up to date list her requirements. Meanwhile of greatest importance security UK forces in Egypt should not be prejudiced until prospects defence agreement become clearer. Also important to make as much capital as possible in course negotiations out of such releases of arms from UK as may be made for present intention therefore not to release any further supplies from UK until negotiations are under way. Thereafter they would be released in phases. Timing each release would depend on course of negotiations well as availability equipment

¹ This telegram was repeated priority to Cairo as telegram 181.

² This British paper was Appendix D of the "Agreed Record" of the United States-United Kingdom Talks on Egypt. (774.5/1-1453)