

No. 1069

774.5/1-353: Telegram

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

SECRET NIACT

LONDON, January 3, 1953—8 p. m.

3643. Following is UK paper entitled "procedure for negotiation agreement with Egypt on defense issues" handed to us by Foreign Office January 3² for discussion Monday:

"Objectives of the UK and US Governments.

"1. The Governments of the UK and the US intend to enter into negotiation with the Egyptian Government in order to secure the voluntary association of Egypt with the West on arrangements for the defense of the Middle East against outside aggression. They will therefore propose a general settlement comprising:

"(a) A phased withdrawal of British armed forces from Egyptian territory;

"(b) The maintenance of the Canal Zone base in peace with a view to its immediate reactivation in the event of war;

"(c) An arrangement for the air defense of Egypt;

"(d) The participation of Egypt in a Middle East defense organization; and

"(e) A program of military and economic assistance to Egypt.

"Tactics.

"2. The negotiations would begin by the US and UK Ambassadors at Cairo informing the Egyptian Prime Minister that the two governments are willing to discuss a general settlement on the above lines, since they believe it to be in the interest both of the Middle East and of the West Powers that such a settlement should be speedily brought about. The Ambassadors could indicate that if British troops are to be withdrawn from the Canal Zone, it is imperative that alternative arrangements be made at the same time for the defense of the Middle East as a whole. It is for this reason that all the items comprising the proposed general settlement should be treated as inter-dependent and discussed simultaneously. Once this is agreed in principle, technical committees could be set forthwith to deal with items (a), (b), (c) and (e) above. However [garble].

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 188.

² The document presented below in general formed the basis for Paper No. 3 of the United States-United Kingdom Talks on Egypt. Subject to certain changes in it, some of which are described in telegram 3691 from London, Document 1071, this document officially became a paper entitled "Procedure for Negotiating Defence Agreement with Egypt", and was approved by the representatives of the United States and United Kingdom, subject to the approval of their governments. (774.5/1-1453)