

No. 1071

774.5/1-458: Telegram

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

SECRET

LONDON, January 6, 1953—8 p. m.

3691. From Byroade. Reference Embtel 3641 January 3.

US-UK meeting re Egypt afternoon January 5 covered following:

1. *British paper "procedure for negotiation agreement with Egypt on defense issues"* (Embtel 3643 January 3). I agreed on whole with paper except phrase in paragraph 5 appropriate stages of negotiation. Explained Ital most impossible lay down specific rules for moving from one phase to another. Thought best we could do was in general tie arms supply to negotiations but actual type of arms and supply time table should be played by ear. Added that we also wanted to go ahead with interim arms aid program. British agreed could not be specific on this point and thought phrasing would have to be governed by such general principles as Egyptian capacity to absorb arms, lethal character of arms, likelihood Egyptians using arms against UK forces and availability arms. On availability, British aid program have to be considered in light requirements other NATO members.

On long-term arms aid, I explained we accepted principle that British be main supplier but could not accept that such policy should exclude Egypt procurement from US. On this general subject, British felt mention should be made in paper re arms standardization along UK lines. I agreed in principle.

British emphasized they hoped US would restrict its arms program as far as possible as British considered their arms program to Egypt as entree to obtaining Egyptian acceptance of technicians. Large supplies of US arms during negotiations would weaken their position.

It was finally agreed that paragraph 5 of paper under discussion would refer to both US paper (Embtel 3642 January 3) and a re-draft UK paper (now under preparation) which would include British objections to our interim aid program.²

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 192.

² See footnote 2, Document 1068. The phrasing of paragraph 5 of this paper was changed to read as follows: "The United States and United Kingdom Governments would be prepared to provide military aid on the basis of paper No. 4." (774.5/1-1453)

Regarding the reference to Paper No. 4, see footnote 2, Document 1068.

According to the "Agreed Record", Byroade's reference here must be to the British paper originally entitled "Military Assistance to Egypt—Supply of Arms and Warlike Equipment" which the Embassy had transmitted to the Department in telegram 3610, Document 1062, and which was Appendix D of the "Agreed Record". In effect the British now withdrew this paper in favor of a new document which became Annex B to Paper No. 4 and was entitled "United Kingdom Position on Extension of Military Aid to Egypt". (774.5/1-1453)