

I shall be most grateful if you will let me know what you think of these ideas. ⁵

Yours ever,

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

⁵ On Feb. 20, the British Ambassador, Sir Roger Makins, delivered by hand another brief message, which is not printed, from Prime Minister Churchill to President Eisenhower reiterating Churchill's desire for an early answer to his message dated Feb. 18. (Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204, "Churchill Correspondence with Eisenhower, February 1953 thru March 1955")

On Feb. 23, Makins sent another message to the President from the Prime Minister, which is also not printed. In it, Churchill informed Eisenhower that the British Government was announcing that same day that it had retained the services of Field Marshal Sir William Slim, the former Chief of the Imperial General Staff, to have him available to advise British negotiators on the military issues involved in any discussions which might begin with Egypt about the Suez Canal Zone. (Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204, "Churchill Correspondence with Eisenhower, February 1953 thru March 1955")

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*The Secretary of State to the Director for Mutual Security
(Stassen)* ¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 19, 1953.

MY DEAR MR. STASSEN: I am sure you are aware of the importance which we attach to Egypt in the area of the Near and Middle East. It is the key to the problem of Middle East defense and the general problem of relations between the United States and the Arab States. The present Egyptian Government under General Naguib, which came into power on July 23, 1952, has given many evidences of its desire to cooperate with the United States, including participation in the defense arrangements for the area, provided it can first settle the outstanding Anglo-Egyptian disputes. We believe it is absolutely essential to our interests that General Naguib remain in power and be encouraged to co-operate with the West.

We have already taken first steps to support the Naguib regime by offering \$10 million in economic assistance and by agreeing to sell \$11 million worth of military equipment. The recent signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement on the Sudan has opened the way for closer understandings with Egypt and makes it additionally important to demonstrate continued support for the Egyptian Government.

¹ This letter was drafted by Ortiz and Jernegan.