

## No. 1104

641.74/2-2453

*Memorandum by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Jernegan) to the Secretary of State*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 24, 1953.

Subject: Procedure for Negotiations with Egypt

*Background*

At the London talks in January, it was agreed that the American and British Ambassadors in Cairo would open negotiations on the Suez Canal question by informing General Naguib that our two Governments were willing to discuss a general settlement based on five points:<sup>2</sup>

- (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.
- (e) A program of (US and UK) military and economic assistance to Egypt.

If the Egyptian Government accepted these points as a basis for discussion, it was proposed that technical committees be set up to deal with items (a), (b), (c), and (e). The question of Egyptian participation in a Middle East Defense Organization, which is a key point for us, would be handled by the two Ambassadors, who would have considerable discretion in their tactics. (The agreement on these procedures is to be found on Page 11 of the paper enclosed with Mr. Churchill's letter to the President.)

The immediate question raised by Mr. Churchill is whether we should send a high-ranking military officer to accompany our Ambassador in joint discussions with the Egyptians, the British representatives being Ambassador Stevenson and Field Marshal Sir William Slim. A broader question raised by his letter is how closely our representatives should be associated with the British in all phases of the negotiations.

<sup>1</sup> Jernegan drafted this memorandum, and it had the concurrence of Paul H. Nitze, Director of the Policy Planning Staff, and James C. H. Bonbright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> See footnotes 2 and 3, Document 1062.