

It might also be well for the President to express gratification at Mr. Churchill's assurances that no American military or other assistance will be needed or called for in the event of failure of the negotiations and to say that he would deeply regret the necessity for British forces in Egypt to enter into action.

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No. 1105

Eisenhower Library, Eisenhower papers, Whitman file

*Memorandum of Discussion at the 133d Meeting of the National Security Council, Tuesday, February 24, 1953*

TOP SECRET      EYES ONLY

Present at the 133rd meeting of the Council were the President of the United States, presiding, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director for Mutual Security. Also present were the Secretary of the Treasury, the Under Secretary of State, General Vandenberg for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Acting Director of Central Intelligence, the Assistant to the President, the Administrative Assistant to the President for National Security Matters, the Special Assistant to the President for Cold War Operations, the Military Liaison Officer, the Executive Secretary, NSC, and the Deputy Executive Secretary, NSC.

There follows a general account of the main positions taken and the chief points made at this meeting.

*British-Egyptian Negotiations*

The President referred in his opening remarks to two letters from Prime Minister Churchill—one some time ago and another received yesterday<sup>1</sup>—which expressed extreme urgency with regard to the part to be played by the United States in the current negotiations between the British and the Egyptians. The President said he was somewhat puzzled as to the nature of the problem, but he deduced from these letters that the Prime Minister anticipated urgently an American decision. He had therefore felt it best to call the Council together and to get everybody's advice. The first question, which he put to the Secretary of State, was the nature of the problem Mr. Churchill was concerned about and why a solution was so urgent.

Secretary Dulles replied that he thought he knew the subject of Mr. Churchill's letters, but that he could not see why the matter

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<sup>1</sup> See footnote 6, Document 1100.