

Decision join with British in negotiations conditioned on UK acceptance formula which provides considerable latitude re exact arrangements for base. Dept wishes assure negotiators flexibility in tactics and avoid presentation fixed plan re base to Egyptians.

Provided formula accepted by UK, assurances will be required Egypt would welcome US participation in negotiations including presence high ranking military man (Gen John E. Hull now Army Vice Chief of Staff). As soon as answer received from UK, Department expects instruct Caffery to approach Egyptian Government this matter. Secretary has agreed with Eden that Stevenson should call on Naguib or Egyptian FonMin accompanied by Caffery and explain reasons why US Government should be associated in negotiations (mainly that it is hoped negotiations will lead to settlement Middle East Defense problems and building up Egyptian economy). Caffery would confirm willingness US Government that he so participate. Department relies on Caffery to coordinate with Stevenson best manner approach Egyptian Government without giving impression US and UK have decided on US participation regardless Egyptian opinion, which of course is not the case.

Eden stated MEDO part of package and reference to it might be required early stage negotiations. Department emphasized it did not envisage MEDO outline as fixed document for Egyptian acceptance. Eden agreed tactics in presenting MEDO concept should be left to negotiators.

DULLES

No. 1114

774.5/3-853: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

TOP SECRET PRIORITY CAIRO, March 8, 1953—2 p. m.

2008. I am in hearty agreement with views expressed by Secretary, as reported Deptels 1775 and 1776, repeated London 5956 and 5957, March 7.

As I have previously indicated there is no possibility that Egyptians will accept plan "A".² As Byroade pointed out in London, there is some possibility that elements of "A" and "B" can be achieved provided UK and United States Governments are able to produce an acceptable program of economic and military assistance.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 679.

² See footnote 3, Document 1106.