

The Secretaries of State and of Defense are to be notified by you of this decision.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

3-1753) Caffery replied on Mar. 19, in telegram 2106, not printed, that he had notified the Egyptians that they were eligible for grant military aid for training, and that the Egyptians expressed appreciation and agreed in principle to sign an MSA agreement. (774.5 MSP/3-1953)

No. 1121

774.5/3-1563: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET NIACT

CAIRO, March 15, 1953—3 p. m.

2064. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs told me this morning that the news of the joint approach yesterday had been extremely badly received all over Cairo.<sup>2</sup> By the time they met with the Cabinet Ministers and members of the RCC in the evening the feeling was so strong that those present were unanimous that the joint approach must be rejected.

I have previously on several occasions warned that the joint approach might be unhappily received. (re my telegrams 2008 and 2022)<sup>3</sup>

As example of the pathological distrust of the British Naguib told me it was alleged in the meeting last night that this was simply a maneuver on the part of the British to endeavor to transfer some of the animosity now directed against them to us.

The Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs then went to great pains to assure me of their great friendship for us, their pro-Western sympathies their intention eventually to cooperate in ME defense and their strong hopes that we could continue our friendship. They particularly asked that I continue during the Suez negotiations the same role that I played during the Sudan negotiations.

<sup>1</sup> Repeated niact to London as telegram 693.

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 2060 from Cairo, Mar. 14, not printed, Ambassador Caffery reported that he and Stevenson had seen General Naguib and the Foreign Minister; that they were both personally disposed in favor of having the United States participate in the negotiation; and that they pledged that they would recommend to the Council of Ministers and the Revolutionary Command Council that they accept the U.S. offer. (774.5/3-1453)

<sup>3</sup> For telegram 2008, see Document 1114. Regarding telegram 2022, see footnote 3, Document 1117.