

"We believe" they said, "that you can accomplish more in your behind-the-scenes role than you could have accomplished as an active negotiator."

CAFFERY

No. 1122

Eisenhower Library, Eisenhower papers, Whitman file, international file

*President Eisenhower to the British Foreign Secretary (Eden)*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, March 16, 1953.

DEAR ANTHONY: Thank you very much for your nice message, which was sent to me by Sir Roger Makins.²

I was really disturbed this morning to find that the question I had personally raised about the planned Joint Conference in Cairo had obviously not been successfully answered.³ You will recall I expressed a reluctance to get publicly involved in the initial phases of this matter until the United States could be assured of the agreement of General Naguib—preferably an official invitation from him—to participate in the negotiations.

It seems to me that we should have been able to achieve this. Now we are told the proposal—apparently coming jointly from our two governments—is not acceptable. I feel we have been clumsy.

This brings to mind again my concern over the way we present to the world the picture of British-American association, which association in our joint view will mean so much to progress in the development of collective security and to the best interests of the whole free world, including, of course, ourselves.

We must, by all means, avoid the appearance of attempting to dominate the Councils of the free world. This, I think, is just as necessary as is the prior study of common problems, by joint effort, before we go into multilateral conferences. Over the past decade I

¹ The draft copy of this letter, also dated Mar. 16, in the Eisenhower papers clearly indicates that this message was addressed to Foreign Secretary Eden. (Eisenhower Library, Eisenhower papers, Whitman file)

² No copy of Foreign Secretary Eden's message to President Eisenhower has been found in Department of State files. However, according to a telephone conversation which Secretary Dulles had with President Eisenhower on Mar. 16, "The President said that he has a message from Eden, thanking him for courtesies while here, etc. Wouldn't this give him [the President] an opportunity to write Eden rather than Churchill about the Egyptian thing? Mr. Dulles said that there was a feud on between them and it might strengthen Eden's hand. He then read a message which General Smith had about the Egyptian situation, and also said that Smith agreed that writing to Eden would be good." (Eisenhower Library, Dulles papers, "Telephone Conversations")

³ See telegram 2064, Mar. 15, *supra*.