

equipped U.S. type planes and recommended grant training for all three Services.

Department realizes difficulties extension grant aid at present but feels this may assist Caffery's effort prevent Egyptian position solidifying on whole question Defense talks. Also wishes avoid giving Egyptians impression U.S. withdrawing from efforts assist Egypt. Jet training of little military significance and no other requests yet received.

DULLES

No. 1129

774.56/3-2053: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Aldrich) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, March 20, 1953—7 p. m.

5207. When I saw Eden on March 16 (Embtel 5110)² he said he had recently had report to effect that US was about begin shipment lethal weapons to Egypt. He did not have details at his finger tips and was vague, but seemed concerned. I told him I had no recent information which would indicate that negotiations with Egypt regarding \$11 million program had reached this point. If, however, he wished send me memo on subject, I would be glad to transmit it to Washington for verification.

There is quoted below abbreviated text memo which Embassy has not received from Foreign Office. While much of information for which Foreign Office requests confirmation is contained in our files, Embassy is somewhat uncertain how current it is. Embassy would appreciate Department's confirmation its understanding or, where Embassy information incomplete, Department's guidance for our use in replying. To assist Department, Embassy comments follow parenthetically after each item.

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 283.

² In telegram 5110 from London, Mar. 16, not printed. Ambassador Aldrich reported that Eden that morning had emphasized to him the depth of feeling that the British Government had regarding the following points contained in telegraphic instructions sent to Ambassador Makins in Washington: that the British Government could not accept the Egyptian position on opening the defense negotiations; that the British could open negotiations on the basis of American participation from the outset and on the basis that the Egyptians accept the British wish to put forward all elements of the package proposal; and that the British wanted to have Stevenson put these points forcefully to Naguib and hoped that the United States would not object. (774.5/3-1653)