

tween Egypt and the United Kingdom regarding evacuation and future maintenance of the Canal Base, you will wish to discuss at once the broader problem of defense of the Middle East area. I believe it to be in the best interest of all of us to see joint defense planning, among nations of the area and those of us who are in a position to assist, start at the earliest practical moment. It would seem to me to be a great tragedy if circumstances were such as to preclude the beginning of such cooperative effort prior to the completion of evacuation, which as you know will necessarily take some time.

The great strides made by Egypt in solving her internal and external problems under your leadership have won the admiration and respect of the American people. The solution in the short space of a few months of the Sudan problem, which has plagued Egyptian-British relations for more than one-half a century is a monument to your statesmanship, patience and courage. Being therefore fully convinced of the good faith of both parties to the forthcoming talks, I feel confident of their success. America will stand ready to assist Egypt materially in fulfilling its new role which nature has accorded her as a keystone in any structure which may be built for the defense of the Middle East. Sincerely yours, signed Dwight D. Eisenhower. *End Verbatim text.* ²

DULLES

² Ambassador Caffery reported in telegram 2150, Mar. 27, not printed, that he had delivered the President's message, and that General Naguib had told Caffery that the letter would receive serious and immediate attention. (774.13/3-2753)

No. 1133

774.5/3-2453: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom ¹

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1953—6:36 p. m.

6343. For your information US views on British note contained in Deptel 1883 presented to British in writing inform contained above reftel in three paragraphs in middle of message immediately subsequent to the phrase "End Verbatim Text." British were not shown copy of personal message from the President to Naguib but were given orally summary of points it covered. We felt it improper show text to British and were fearful of leak that personal confi-

¹ Repeated priority to Cairo as telegram 1885. Drafted and approved by Byrsoade.