

tal; he thinks Egyptians might wait few days or longer for Stevenson. (*Comment:* When I saw Stevenson today at hospital he told me that he might not be out before April 24.) General Robertson departed yesterday for London to consult War Office and Prime Minister re talks.

2. Creswell was less happy about Fawzi's ideas re "neutral form of words" (paragraph 2, Embtel 2211, April 8) and it is uncertain whether London will go along with Fawzi's ideas. Fawzi suggested "outstanding military questions" in communiqué with further explanation by Egypt that this means "all aspects of the evacuation problem." Creswell persuaded Fawzi to make this "all aspects and implications of the evacuation problem" but he is not sure that "implications" will stick. Fawzi told him that "any mention of joint defense is impossible;" Creswell again warned Fawzi that if Egypt asserts that discussions deal with evacuation *only* British would have to make clear their five point position in House of Commons.

CAFFERY

No. 1142

7145/4-1158: Telegram

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

SECRET

LONDON, April 11, 1953—2 p. m.

5533. Reference Cairo's 2222, April 10, Foreign Office has instructed Creswell merely to confirm to Fawzi HMG's hope talks can begin 20 and to avoid being drawn into discussion regarding substance any Egyptian announcement. Foreign Office says, in this connection, that its main interest is in avoiding situation in which UK placed in position of having contradict Egyptians regarding scope of talks. This has been made quite clear to Egyptians and UK can only hope, therefore, they will show proper restraint. For its part, Foreign Office says it presently plans no announcement regarding opening conversations and hopes to be able get away with anodyne statement in response any inquiries resulting from Egyptian publicity. Foreign Office emphasizes, however, extent to which government can do this depends Egyptian restraint.

Foreign Office says Robertson's role will be seat of adviser to Stevenson with full responsibility for coordinating military aspects of problem. Fawzi has suggested talks open in Cairo and that techni-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 299.