

March 19).² Foreign Office's concern arises from (1) military considerations (which Embassy has emphasized would be of little significance), (2) effect on UK bargaining position in negotiations with Egypt, and (3) encouragement to Egypt to turn to US as source supply for jet aircraft.

Embassy also understands that British comments on latest interim arms list (Deptel 6804, April 14) will probably take form of "high level communication" to be delivered early next week.³ Foreign Office now appears concerned re delivery periods for armored cars and amount of ammunition, in addition to more general considerations such as those outlined above.

HOLMES

² Not printed. In telegram 7012 to London on Apr. 23, not printed, the Department informed the Embassy that it had already been approached about the jet pilot training by the British Embassy, but that the Department had held out no hope that the training offer would be withdrawn. (774.56/4-2253)

³ The Embassy in London informed the Department on Apr. 29 in telegram 5846, not printed; that the Foreign-Office said that it hoped to be in a position to give the Embassy its comments on the Egyptian arms list within the next day or so. (774.56/4-2953)

No. 1148

641.74/4-2853: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY

CAIRO, April 28, 1953—6 p. m.

2323. The Minister of Foreign Affairs says that the atmosphere of the meetings yesterday and today was not heavy. There was no disagreeable incident. Neither side took an entrenched position. Each side stated its case but with moderation.

Yesterday's meeting was confined to statements of position. At the meeting this morning it was agreed to proceed with the discussion of three questions: First, evacuation, second, maintenance of base, third, air defense, and that a committee should be set for each of these and that each committee should thereafter set up its own pertinent, technical sub-committees. Considerable progress was made as to terms of reference for these but final agreement as to wording was not reached. It is hoped to reach final agreement tomorrow.

(The Egyptians will propose for discussion a little later the subject of requirements of the Egyptian Armed Forces.)

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 753 and unnumbered to Paris for Reinhardt, to Rome for Unger, to Ankara, and to the Arab capitals.