

Fawzi then said he would like to emphasize the urgent need of speed especially in view of the inimical attitude of certain elements of the Egyptian public, Communists and some of the Wafd, to the present negotiations and to the fact that some members of the regime have been very doubtful about the government's undertaking these conversations. Also he has secured a promise from the RCC members to make "no big noises" in public that might have bearing on the negotiations.

He talked about the British charges of attacks on British cars and drivers in the Canal Zone. He firmly denied any Egyptian official responsibility and contended that they were probably the work of Egyptian individuals unfriendly to the present regime. He added that in any event the government would take immediate appropriate steps.

CAFFERY

 No. 1149

741.56274/4-3063: Telegram

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

SECRET

LONDON, April 30, 1953—8 p. m.

5875. Foreign Office today expressed concern at what it regards as Egyptian efforts to establish and gain British acceptance at this stage of negotiations of matters of principle. It says Stevenson and other members UK delegation have made synthesis Egyptian views, which emerged in clearest form at yesterday's meeting, and which Foreign Office outlined as follows:

1. Egyptians insisting on arrangements for maintenance base which approximate case C, with perhaps some modification (as yet unclearly defined) along lines paragraph 9, case B.² Thus, while Egyptians show willingness accept some technicians, they insist they be under complete Egyptian control. Any release of stores or maintenance of facilities which British might require would have to be requested on governmental level by British and, if approved by Egyptians, latter would order technicians to perform work.

2. Egyptians refuse recognize any right of British access in event of war and, even if such access should be granted, insist on Egyptian right of veto re use to which base is put and even re withdrawal of stores.

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 310 and unnumbered to Paris for Reinhardt, to Rome for Unger, to Ankara, and to the Arab capitals.

² Regarding "Cases B and C", see Document 1061.