

Foreign Office says Stevenson has been told any such principles as these totally unacceptable. Embassy officer expressed hope that each side could avoid at this crucial stage of proceedings either demanding acceptance its set of principles or rejecting those of other side. Greatest hope seemed to be to try agree on activating subcommittees, with neutral terms of reference, in which problems could be explored in effort reach common ground.

Foreign Office officials said difficulty is that Egyptians attempting reflect unsatisfactory principles in terms of reference. This may, of course, be initial try-on from which Egyptians will retreat. Although Stevenson has been told Egyptian principles unacceptable, manner and form in which he conveys this to Egyptians is (except in unlikely event his instructions changed) still in his discretion. Foreign Office thought he would, therefore, try get Egyptians agree put questions of principle aside for present and get on with subcommittees.

ALDRICH

 No. 1150

774.56/5-153: Telegram

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

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7150. Egyptian Military Attaché states he instructed endeavor obtain Department reply Egyptian arms request before departure for Cairo May 7.

Department feels obliged comply. Negative report to RCC likely create doubt re US intention assist Egypt thus adversely affecting discussions with UK and creating unfavorable atmosphere Secretary's visit.² Accordingly, Department will inform Military Attaché May 6 US prepared sell Egypt items listed Deptel 6804 to London. Embassy London should advise British adding we hope receive British comments beforehand but impelled proceed in any case.

DULLES

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 2115.

² See footnote 4, Document 1155.