

ate problem involving public announcement any successful conclusion arms negotiations with Egypt at time such incidents as those outlined by Lloyd are taking place. I assume we could not, without nullifying any favorable effect in Egypt, publicly state at time of announcement that we have concluded arms agreement with Egypt but that we intend withhold deliveries as long as there is threat to security British forces. Yet only such a statement would, in my opinion, mitigate unfavorable impression here and lessen strain which I fear on United States-UK relations.

Given all aspects this problem, I strongly urge Department find some pretext for protracting negotiations until such time as Anglo-Egyptian agreement is clearly in sight.

ALDRICH

 No. 1152

174.5675-553: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

LONDON, May 5, 1953--noon.

5929. Following is abbreviated text British *aide-mémoire* regarding Egyptian arms supply, handed me yesterday by Selwyn Lloyd:

"HMG have studied list of arms which USG propose offer Egyptian Government, given in *aide-mémoire* which US Embassy was good enough hand Foreign Office April 15.²

"As Embassy aware, HMG do not consider offer or supply of important quantities of arms to Egypt at this moment will be conducive to success of negotiations now proceeding Cairo, a success as important to free world as whole, including United States, as to UK. They would much prefer, therefore, that no firm offers of equipment should be made to Egyptian Government until it is clear that latter seriously intend cooperate with free world in defense of strategic area of ME. They would hope that United States Government could at last delay any decision to make equipment available by protracting discussions with representatives of Egyptian Government.

"HMG would see particular objection to early supply of tanks, armored cars or ammunition of type listed in Embassy's *aide-mémoire*. It there appeared that armored cars to be supplied would be for delivery within 45 days and tanks and some of ammunition for delivery within one year. This conflicts with what HMG Ambassador at Washington had previously understood from United States Secretary of State, that is, that none of these items would in any

¹ Repeated priority to Cairo as telegram 313.

² See telegram 6804 to London, Document 1144.