

case reach Egypt for at least another year. HMG very much hope this statement by Secretary of State still holds good if, despite objections mentioned in preceding paragraph, any offer made to Egyptian Government."

Foreign Office states assurances mentioned final paragraph were given Makins by Secretary on February 19.³ We have reminded Foreign Office that, in response similar statement Foreign Officer's *aide-mémoire* March 17, Embassy replied in *aide-mémoire* March 25 (Embassy's despatch 4963, March 25)⁴ that armored cars are for 45-day delivery. Foreign Office says it noted conflict with Secretary's assurances at time but did not raise it because of news that new list would be forwarded soon as result study Egyptian comments on February 13 list:

ALDRICH

³ Not printed.

⁴ The despatch under reference is actually telegram 4563 from London, Mar. 25, not printed. (774.56/3-2553) In regard to the *aide-mémoire* of Mar. 17 and 25, see telegram 5207, Document 1129, and telegram 6321, Document 1130.

No. 1153

774.56/5-553: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, May 5, 1953—6:21 p. m.

7198. We do not plan any announcement at this time regarding sale of arms to Egypt (urtel 5928). Negotiations are still two or three stages removed from that point. Next step is to submit for Egyptian consideration revised arms list, following which Egyptians will presumably indicate their agreement or make further requests for revision. After informal agreement reached, Egyptians must make formal request, whereupon Defense will determine exact costs and we will take another good look at entire picture. If we decide favorably, Egyptians will then have to make necessary financial arrangements for payment.

This process certain to take some time, and it is only at its conclusion that public announcement contemplated. Even after that point is reached, delivery time for first item (30 armored cars) now estimated as ninety days and for bulk items (including additional 30 armored cars) as one year. During all this period we would have complete freedom to hold back or refuse delivery at any time.

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 2438. Drafted and approved by Jernegan.