

tian Army and irregulars in guerilla and sabotage operations. Do you wish to give them American arms as well at a moment when so much hangs in the balance and when we are faithfully working on a joint plan about the Suez Canal on the case agreed between us? *End verbatim text.*

Text Secretary's reply delivered to British Embassy May 8 follows:

Verbatim text. I have received your personal message of May 7, 1953 regarding the arms and equipment which we indicated to the Egyptian Government they can buy in this country. In consideration of your strong feeling of concern, I have instructed the Department again to delay delivery of the list until after I have had the opportunity to assess the situation in Cairo. However, after discussion with the President, we feel that it may not be possible to continue these dilatory tactics without serious consequences in our relations with Egypt and charges of bad faith. Therefore, I am leaving the situation here in such shape that, if it seems desirable, I can say at Cairo that the decision to submit the list had already been taken prior to my departure. I want to be in this position so that such action, if it is to be taken, cannot be interpreted as approval or disapproval of any Egyptian viewpoints I may learn at Cairo. ¹ *End verbatim text.*

DULLES

¹ The text of the Secretary of State's reply handed to the British Embassy on May 8 was transmitted to the Embassy in Cairo in telegram 2168, May 8. (110.11 DU/5-853)

No. 1157

Presidential Correspondence, lot 66 D 204, "Eisenhower Correspondence with Churchill"

President Eisenhower to Prime Minister Churchill

SECRET

WASHINGTON, May 8, 1953.

DEAR WINSTON:

[Here follow the President's remarks about Churchill's possible visit to the Soviet Union, the situation in Korea and in Southeast Asia, and British Chancellor of the Exchequer Butler's rebuff of a possible new solution of the Iranian oil crises.]

Foster showed me your communication about the Egyptian affair. ¹ It is possible that I have not thoroughly understood the background in which should be viewed the existing impasse. I was told that some very protracted negotiations between the Egyptians and ourselves, looking toward the supply to them, by us, of a meager quantity of arms, had been held up for a long time pending a satisfactory solution of the Sudan problem.

I had understood that by agreement with your Government, we were to proceed with the transfer of a small amount of equipment

¹ See telegram 7292 to London, May 8, *supra*.