

## No. 1170

641.74/5-2053: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Pakistan*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET NIACT WASHINGTON, May 23, 1953—2:52 p. m.

1665. For Secretary. Number 7. Noform. In compliance Secretary's instructions<sup>2</sup> Department attempting formulate recommendations on Egyptian problem for consideration Secretary on his return. Following tentative approach now under working level consideration here. While we fully appreciate opposition this approach might arouse from different viewpoints both London and Cairo, as Secretary has pointed out dangers in present situation call for exploration of new measures to break deadlock and reverse continuing deterioration.

Agreement on basis "package proposals" seems unobtainable.<sup>3</sup> Maximum Egypt appears willing accept is base arrangement equivalent to little more than Case C.<sup>4</sup> At same time Western security requirements would not be met by evacuation of base in accordance with Case C trusting in vague assurances hitherto given by RCC that it will subsequently conclude agreements required by defense needs of West. Essential smoke out intentions RCC. Request for RCC assurances willingness undertake defense planning with US at this time might be used for this purpose.

In face above following moves suggested:

1) Prior discussion with UK to obtain its approval procedure outline below.

2) Approach to Egypt by Caffery requesting explicit written commitment to negotiate and conclude with UK and US, after evacuation British troops agreed to and has started, agreement on following lines:

a) Full Egyptian cooperation with West in event of war.

b) Immediate reactivation Suez Canal base in case of war and right of forces of Western powers make full use of base.

c) Maintenance in peacetime by Western personnel facilities considered essential by JCS and British General Staff for immediate use at outbreak of war.

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Istanbul as telegram 1304, to London as telegram 7550, and to Cairo as telegram 2251. Drafted by Burdett and approved by Jernegan.

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 4189 from New Delhi, May 20, not printed, the Secretary of State instructed the Department to try to formulate recommendations on the Egyptian problem for his consideration upon his return. (641.74/5-2053)

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 3, Document 1082.

<sup>4</sup> See Document 1061.