

5. I have further suggestion on problem of technicians which I throw out without knowledge its possible acceptability to British. Idea would be for Egypt and British Governments to agree to designate and give responsibility to some well-known British engineering firm to undertake care and maintenance certain specified facilities and stores subject right of inspection both parties. Arrangement this kind might, it seems to me, have following advantages:

a. From standpoint Egyptian sensibilities re sovereignty, it might be less onerous have private firm undertake work than UK Government employees.

b. War Office could informally let its requirements be known to London office of firm which could issue necessary directives to technicians on base, thereby obviating British Government formally instructing UK Government employees on Egyptian soil.

c. Egypt could defend arrangement as being on essentially same basis as any other private firm doing business in Egypt.

d. From UK point of view, arrangement would permit more organized direction and management within base area than would be case with lot of individual government technicians.

6. Major factor in British attitude towards any plan which we may evolve will be extent to which we are prepared to continue to stand firmly with them.

ALDRICH

No. 1173

641 74/5-2853: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET

LONDON, May 26, 1953—6 p. m.

6261. Embtel 6245 today was drafted prior receipt Amman's 999 to Department containing Ambassador Caffery's views on Department's proposed plan of action on Egyptian problem. I entirely agree with his remarks re importance restoration of confidence between UK and Egypt, which is matter of fundamental importance here in view prevalence deep-seated doubts and suspicions of Egyptian intentions engendered by or inferred from public statements, liberation battalions, Canal Zone incidents, positions in negotiations et cetera. Whether rightly or wrongly, British not psychologically adjusted in these circumstances to act on trust alone, to make significant concessions without reciprocal gestures of good faith.

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 333 and priority to Athens for the Secretary of State as telegram 162.