

mum objectives we hope to attain, and have some reason to believe that these would not be rejected out of hand by the Egyptians. Perhaps our March agreement on the type of base arrangement to be sought, which you mention, would serve the purpose. If my memory serves me correctly, the negotiators were to have flexibility between arrangements which would insure a working Base in peace which would be immediately operable in event of war, and one which would require 60 days for reactivation.

"Won't you please dismiss any thought of us, here, seeming to desert any agreed position or exhibiting weakness. Foster's statements³ in Cairo and his notification to the Egyptians that they cannot get arms as long as you and they are disagreed should reassure you on this.

"With warm personal regard, Ike."

DULLES

³ See footnote 3, Document 1179.

No. 1188

641.74/6-1753: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, June 17, 1953—7:28 p. m.

8013. From the Secretary to the Ambassador. Recently President sent Prime Minister message concerning situation in Egypt, and received reply, copy of which you saw in Washington. President believes conversations with Prime Minister will be more effective than continuation of cabled correspondence and following is given to you as background to assist in reaching understandings.

President is sending to you as Deptel 8011 reply for Prime Minister, and it is expected that you will carry on conversations in amplification of that message, and keep us informed as to results.

We believe best interests of all will be served if British-Egyptian discussions are promptly resumed in Cairo. Clearly Prime Minister does not feel as strongly on this point as we do. This difference probably arises from fact our official reports regarding Egyptian attitudes do not agree with London estimate of situation. Whereas Prime Minister apparently believes Egyptians are weakening, we consider they are merely marking time to see whether there is any hope of resuming negotiations before they attempt guerrilla campaign.

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 2372. Drafted by Burdett and approved by the Secretary of State.