

No. 1195

774.56/6-2953: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1953—11:05 a. m.

5. Despite force arguments (Embtel 2651) we believe reopening question supply arms to Egypt inadvisable this juncture. President's message to Churchill (Deptel 2371) reaffirmed our assurances to British² we would not furnish arms until status Anglo-Egyptian problem clarified. As stated Deptel 2440³ we plan discuss Suez Base issue with Salisbury, thus preventing indefinite delay. Any change in our position on arms would prejudice prospects obtaining modification British stand on Base issue.

We giving urgent consideration (Embtel 2656)⁴ possibility visit fifty-five Egyptian officers US military installations. Difficulties posed by shortage of time and heavy expense involved.⁵

SMITH

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 35.

² Printed as telegram 8011 to London, Document 1187.

³ The Department in telegram 2440 to Cairo, June 30, not printed, informed Ambassador Caffery that since the Bermuda Conference had been postponed, the alternate plan was for Lord Salisbury to participate in talks at the Foreign Minister level in Washington, beginning about July 10. This event would allow an opportunity to discuss Egypt with the British, and the Department planned to proceed on the same basis as planned for Bermuda. (396.1 WA/6-3053)

⁴ Not printed.

⁵ The Department in telegram 57 to Cairo, July 14, not printed, told Caffery that owing to lack of funds, the Department was unable to arrange the transportation to the United States or a tour of American military installations for 55 Egyptian officers. (711.55374/7-1453)

No. 1196

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

Prime Minister Churchill to President Eisenhower

MOST SECRET AND PERSONAL

LONDON, July 3, 1953.

(MY DEAR IKE)¹ I am sure you and Foster will like Salisbury. He holds all my views on Egypt and the Sudan very strongly and I think his idea of bringing General Robertson with him next

¹ According to an attached memorandum from the White House addressed to Under Secretary Smith, not printed, the copy of the Prime Minister's letter transmitted to the Department of State lacked the first paragraph because it was addressed eyes only to the President.