

nest desire for a prompt, honorable and peaceful settlement is not reciprocated.

Please believe me to be ever, your friend, Mohammed Naguib." <sup>1</sup>

CAFFERY

<sup>1</sup> The Department in telegram 45 to Cairo on July 11, not printed, instructed Ambassador Caffery to inform Naguib that the President had received his letter, and that he would reply in due course. (641.74/7-1153)

### No. 1203

641.74/7-1253: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom* <sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, July 12, 1953—3:27 p. m.

203. Limit distribution.

1. At meeting July 11, <sup>2</sup> British presented outline of Suez Base plan as follows:

*Evacuation.* Withdrawal within 18 months. Not yet discussed with Egyptians, but we think they may accept it in spite their statements about shorter period. We cannot accept less.

*Base.* For practical reasons we cannot accept an agreement which does not retain essential features of what was described as Case 'A', <sup>3</sup> namely, that technical control of main installations in Base should remain in British hands. As to how that is done, there is room for certain variety of treatment, but effective result is matter on which we feel certain that we cannot compromise.

Connected question very great importance is that of our right to get back into our Base and reactivate it when we need it. This has not yet been discussed formally with Egyptians, but is certain that they will make difficulties about giving us a sufficiently categorical and wide assurance. They will ask us to have confidence in their good intentions, but that is not good enough. It is no use to us to preserve our Middle East base in being unless we can have full access to it when we want it. We cannot accept vague verbal assurances from present rulers of Egypt as adequate guarantees of Egyptian behavior in future on such a critical matter. Formula which we propose to put forward to cover this point is as follows:

In the event of a major war, or aggression or threat of aggression against Egypt by an outside power, the base area shall be at the full disposal of both the contracting parties. An aggression, or threat of aggression, by an outside power against Turkey, Persia,

<sup>1</sup> Also sent to Cairo as telegram 47. Drafted by Thomas Beale, Officer in Charge, United Kingdom and Ireland Affairs, and approved by Douglas MacArthur II, the Counselor of the Department.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 3, Document 1195.

<sup>3</sup> See Document 1061.