

uation of approaches from both our governments which would result Egyptians being in position play one off against other.

Nature US reply Naguib letter discussed. Salisbury expressed hope US would not comment in detail on plan which would place US in role mediator. Hoped reply would be limited to thanks, to notification that plan had been transmitted to UK, that it represented substantial progress in some directions but that we avoid giving Egyptians impression UK should accept Egyptian proposals or that they should serve as basis further discussions. Expressed hope that under conditions outlined above we could suggest that Egyptians "make contact with Robertson". UK fully in accord informal contact should precede any further formal negotiations.

US side indicated general agreement re principles but expressed doubts as to possibility obtaining in form proposed by UK. Also US reiterated concern re continuing absence sufficient flexibility UK position. Undertook to take into account points raised this discussion in preparation our reply to Naguib.

DULLES

No. 1205

641,747-1558: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, July 15, 1953—5:30 p. m.

66. For Caffery from Secretary for information only. Text of President's reply to Naguib being transmitted separate cable.

While discussions somewhat inconclusive believe considerable progress made. Our impression is that discussions left only three points of Egyptian formula which British resist strongly. These are questions of uniforms for technicians, conditions for availability of Base and duration. We do not believe question of uniforms would alone become breaking point. As to availability and duration our Defense people fully share desirability of British formula, particularly regarding "threat" and also no possibility of equivocation that Base available to UK and US. As regards duration we fully agree three years too short. We have feeling Robertson formulated text which he erroneously thought would appeal to us as containing idea of MEDO. As he personally thinks little of MEDO concept, believe he will try to get new formula prior to talking to Egyptians. They may try for straight ten-year agreement in place of compli-

<sup>1</sup> Repeated priority to London as telegram 262. Drafted by the Secretary of State and Byroade and approved by Byroade.