

reiterations of such statements as those contained Embtel 254, July 16. <sup>2</sup> Foreign Office seemed receptive this point of view.

*Comment:* In light foregoing, Embassy suggests Department and Ambassador Caffery may wish consider stimulating Egyptians to resume contact. Embassy suggests any such US efforts might be tied to statement in President's letter that Robertson returned to Cairo and "will be available to discuss the situation." <sup>3</sup>

ALDRICH

<sup>2</sup> Not printed.

<sup>3</sup> In telegram 83 to Cairo on July 18, not printed, the Department asked Caffery if he believed it a good idea to ask either the British or the Egyptians to act in order to resume negotiations per the contents of telegram 291 from London. (641.74/7-1853) Caffery reported in telegram 103 on July 19, not printed, that the British Embassy in Cairo thought the suggestion that contact be made with the Egyptians before the debate in the House of Commons was unrealistic. (641.74/7-1953)

## No. 1208

641.74/7-2253. Telegram

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

TOP SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, July 22, 1953—3:57 p. m.

96. Confidential for Caffery from Secretary. Your 112. <sup>2</sup>

Robertson's statement reflects wishful thinking. We are not "backing" either Britain or Egypt. We are anxious to get the result which I specified in my public statement made in Cairo. <sup>3</sup> In certain respects we share the British position. In other respects we share the Egyptian position and in many respects we strongly backed Egyptian viewpoint in our talks here with British.

With reference to Department's 66 it perhaps does not sufficiently make clear that while we are concerned as to "availability" or "duration" this does not mean that we support the British formulae. On the contrary I emphasized to Salisbury that while we felt that the Egyptian formulae were too restrictive we doubted that a Brit formula should be insisted on and we assume Robertson now has some flexibility on this point. If Egyptians feel we have "let them down" remember British also disappointed we are not fully

<sup>1</sup> Drafted and approved by the Secretary of State.

<sup>2</sup> Ambassador Caffery in telegram 112, July 21, not printed, reported that General Robertson had told him the previous evening that the British felt that, as a result of the Washington talks, the United States was supporting the United Kingdom. Robertson said, "British point of view is that as Great Britain stands behind United States in Korea, United States stands behind Great Britain in Egypt." (641.74/7-2153)

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 3, Document 1179.