

(1) Egyptians requested British ideas regarding Egyptian proposals in Naguib-Eisenhower correspondence. Therefore, Robertson set forth general British attitude towards these. Egyptians listened, but did not comment.

(2) Reorganization base United Kingdom accepted idea Egyptian commander assisted by British technical adviser. Neither side was sure what title latter should have. (Fawzi told me Egyptians prefer "technical assistant") both sides agreed that his functions would have to be defined with care.

(3) United Kingdom expressed view that base would require communications center of some kind and that some messages would have to be in code. (Egyptians agreed that this was problem to be worked out along with that of communication channel.)

(4) British, without obtaining any Egyptian reactions, outlined reasons why British technicians in base should wear uniforms. (Fawzi told me Egyptians might give in on this.)

(5) Egyptians asked British views regarding length of time technicians would remain; British replied that this was question related to duration of agreement itself.

(6) Regarding duration agreement, Egyptians stated 10 years far too long; British replied three years impossibly short. British consider this question left open. (Fawzi told me Egyptians might go to five.)

(7) Regarding availability United Kingdom advanced formula discussed Washington and directed attention to the aspects to which President Eisenhower attached particular importance. Egyptians plainly did not like this formula, but reserved their position. British believe this question was left for further consideration and discussion.

CAFFERY

 No. 1212

641.74/8-1453: Telegram

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1953—7:01 p. m.

784. Noforn. We attach utmost importance continuation present informal Anglo-Egyptian talks on Suez Base. Recent incidents Port Said serve reinforce our conviction necessity settlement. We encouraged by apparent earnest desire both sides eliminate differences and by progress in narrowing area disagreement. Despite favorable trend, danger always exists incident or other factor will precipitate sudden break and public disclosure this fact with far-reaching consequences. For this reason Caffery given advance au-

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 183. Drafted by Burdett and approved by Matthews.