

to Egyptians. Egyptians rejected inclusion Turkey and Iran stating flatly that on political grounds they could not go beyond "members Arab League Collective Security Pact": Egypt would be willing to "consult" if Turkey attacked and would accept reactivation of base in case UN decision calling for armed action. According British Embassy Robertson believes "we are not far off on availability" provided London does not insist on inclusion of Turkey.

2. Robertson now considers most serious question to be dealt with is that of duration of agreement together with numbers and duration of stay of technicians. UK for first time advanced their ideas on these matters in detail. UK asked for 10 years agreement with technicians to stay concurrently. Egyptians refused this. UK then proposed 10 year agreement with 4000 technicians for 5 years, this number to be tapered off thereafter. Egyptians suggested 5 year agreement with technicians for 3 years. Robertson replied this impossible if base is to have real military value and urged Egyptians to be forthcoming.

3. Egyptians were "filled with gloom" when British advanced idea that all agreement times must start after British evacuation completed. UK said it was practical impossibility to work out technician pattern while British forces still there. Robertson estimated evacuation would require two years although he hinted this time might be slightly shortened. (British Embassy states 18 months now considered absolute minimum.) Egyptians stated that they had always assumed agreement would run from date of signature and that 6 months adequate period for evacuation. Both sides agreed meet August 27.

CAFFERY

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 No. 1214

641.74/5-2853: Telegram

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 28, 1953—7:17 p. m.

239. On instructions from Abdel Nasir, Egyptian Ambassador informed Department August 28 following re Anglo-Egyptian meeting August 27.

(1) British abandoned proposal that agreement time should start from date evacuation troops completed.

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London as telegram 1063. Drafted by Burdett and approved by Byroade.