

ment is to be reached it is important to reach it before the reopening of the universities in early October.

CAFFERY

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641.749-953: Telegram

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SECRET

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302. 1. It now appears that possibility Anglo-Egyptian settlement near future largely depends upon reconciliation of differences between what two groups of politicians (British and Egyptian) consider they "can get away with" vis-à-vis their public opinions on duration question.

2. I am not in a position to comment re what British Government can accept politically. As Egyptians know it, UK suggestion is agreement for 10 years and technicians for 5 years (with tapering off of technicians after fifth year); agreement to start from completion British evacuation. In effect, making allowance for 2-year evacuation period, British formula is 12-7 years.

3. Egyptians have offered UK as "maximum Egyptian public opinion will accept" agreement for 5 years from date of signature with technicians for 3 years. Adding important Egyptian concessions I obtained and reported in my 292, Egyptians, "in order achieve quick settlement", are now prepared to go to formula which amounts in effect to 6 years for agreement and evacuation (1 year) combined-technicians in some guise for entire period.

4. Considering past and present difficulties, I am surprised RCC has felt able to go as far as it has to meet UK re duration. Nasir, himself, has said that while he could sign agreement for 10 years this would not mean anything because it would be violently and effectively rejected by Egyptian public. Important element in RCC decision as to maximum it can "get away with" is widely held idea that under treaty British will have to get out anyway in 1956. This idea clearly militates against acceptance British suggestion that RCC should sign up until 1963. As it is, RCC is taking big political risk in offering agreement running to 1959. Aside from Wafd, Moslem Brothers and Communists even the Pashas would come into the open against RCC if 10 years accepted. It is just too long for any class of Egyptian to accept.

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 105 and unnumbered to Paris for Reinhardt, to Rome for Maffitt, to Moscow, Ankara, Tel Aviv, and the Arab capitals.