

5. I regret duration looms so large at this juncture because it seems to me that any terminal date is likely mean very little in practice.

6. Prerequisite for enhancing security this part of world is Anglo-Egyptian settlement which will open door to permanent good will and "equal to equal" collaboration with Egyptian area defense. Short range, evacuation British forces from Suez base represents security risk but this risk will be same under Egyptian 6-year offer as under British 10-year suggestion. We should all know well before end 5 years whether our hopes for fruitful collaboration with Egypt are realizable. If they are, well before that time we will wish to replace Anglo-Egyptian settlement with a broader-based and more satisfactory arrangement.

7. After due reflection I conclude that RCC offer (as amended to me by Foreign Minister (Embtel 292)) is so close to being maximum politically feasible that it should be accepted as just that. I believe also that unless agreement is reached in principle between now and early October (when universities open) it is doubtful RCC will be able to maintain its offer amounting to 6 years. While British Government may be attached to idea poker game in which Egyptians likely raise their bid again (Embassy's 291) ² I think this concept may be dangerous over-simplification which does not take into account extent opposition which Egyptian Government will have to face as result of making any agreement with UK.

8. Having in mind my telegram 293 September 6, I suggest that Department bring these latest suggestions to attention of British and counsel British to accept them.

CAFFERY

² Not printed.

No. 1219

64,74/9-1153: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Aldrich) to the
Department of State* ¹

SECRET

LONDON, September 11, 1953—6 p. m.

1067. Egyptian understanding of British position on duration issue (paragraph 2, Cairo's 302, September 9) differs somewhat from British explanation of their position. Foreign Office informs us 10 year period should commence on ratification of agreement

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 32.