

that success in this instance will help greatly to make it possible for us together to achieve other successes.

Please present this personal viewpoint to Eden.²

DULLS

² Ambassador Aldrich reported in telegram 1474, Oct. 7, not printed, that he presented the contents of this telegram to Foreign Secretary Eden, who said that the United Kingdom was not in agreement with Egypt on the question of availability. The British wanted to have the base available in case of action by the United Nations in the same manner as in the case of an attack on any member of the Arab League. Eden believed this was the most important point of difference dividing the two sides. Regarding uniforms, Eden said that the technicians were part of the British Army, and that some sort of uniforms had to be worn on the base. (641.74/10-753)

No. 1228

641.74/10-753: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET PRIORITY LONDON, October 7, 1953--7 p. m.

1490. At Eden's instructions Foreign Office this afternoon gave Embassy following summary present UK position on Suez negotiations (Embtel 1474 October 7):²

1. Availability. This is most important outstanding issue and for domestic political as well as strategic reasons. British can not accept base as being automatically available to them only in event attack on members Arab League collective security pact. British feel very strongly on this point and seem have impression Egyptians have retracted from original position of accepting in principle British formula re UN action to resist aggression. In this connection see paragraph 2 Deptel 1063 August 28.³

2. Duration. 18 months period for evacuation agreed, but Egyptians want evacuation commence as soon as agreement on principles of base agreement reached. Although UK not disposed give undertaking begin evacuation on such basis, UK might consider evacuation some troops when agreement reached.

3. Uniforms. British military feel strongly British soldiers must be able wear conventional British uniforms, i.e., UK unwilling make agreement eliminating uniforms. Re actual fact, however, British would probably agree soldiers when not on duty would be

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 39.

² Not printed; see footnote 2, *supra*.

³ Printed as telegram 239 to Cairo, Document 1214.