

ble be more precise without knowing what Egyptians now have in mind on this point.

When I saw Eden this afternoon he confirmed above and said he did not think delay which would give Egyptians time to think matters over would do any harm at this time. Neither Foreign Office or Eden seem worried about possible effects early opening of universities referred to in Cairo's 357, September 23.

ALDRICH

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No. 1237

641.74/16-2452: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Aldrich) to the  
Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

LONDON, October 24, 1953—11 p. m.

1789. Foreign Office commented as follows re views expressed Deptel 2202 October 23 on issues availability, uniforms and consultation in Suez negotiations.

1. Foreign Office does not see advantage suggested second paragraph reference telegram as regards Egyptian proposal re availability (which Foreign Office insists never given UK by Egyptians). Egypt would, in Foreign Office view, be under pressure in any event make base available under Chapter VII of Charter as preamble of draft agreement refers to both parties obligations under Charter. From UK point of view, precise definition of Egyptian obligation in event of "threat to peace et cetera" is very important in defending agreement against Parliamentary and other domestic criticism. Furthermore Foreign Office considers such precision necessary insure NATO members fully aware exact conditions under which base available to West.

2. Re uniforms, Foreign Office considers UK offer reasonable. UK has told Egyptians, and new formula (paragraph e Cairo's 488 October 22) makes clear in writing, that technicians except on very special occasions would not be in uniform. Foreign Office shares our view negotiations ought not to be allowed break on this point.

3. UK position these two issues remains as stated Embtel 1780 October 23. Foreign Office hopes United States will support UK on these issues and considers such support would be decisive as it ["] was in case of 7 years duration".

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo as telegram 47.