

portance from a practical point of view. He hoped Naguib, particularly after being strengthened by Sudanese elections, would take statesmanlike view of situation and make best of it by accepting early agreement with the British. If this could be done Secy felt Egypt and US could move together into more constructive planning and development for the future.

Egyptian Ambassador given no hint of new availability formula we had urged upon Eden or that Eden had indicated some slight flexibility might be forthcoming on this point.

Do not believe Ambassador grasped full import of Secy's remarks and fear he may not objectively report conversation or situation as we see it.

Caffery should do utmost under these difficult conditions persuade Egyptians carefully weigh alternatives prior to their final decision. Our own estimate of situation is that British prepared to make agreement if Egyptians act promptly but this may not be the case for long in view of British political problems.

DULLES

No. 1251

641.74/12-1153. Telegram

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

SECRET

LONDON, December 11, 1953—6 p. m.

2559. With concurrence Eden, who met at Foreign Office with advisers regarding Egypt on returning today, British Embassy Washington is being instructed inform Department that availability formula suggested to Eden at Bermuda (Department telegram 638, repeated London 3041) does not appear adequate, at least in present form. British feel that merely referring to "application" of Charter and Uniting for Peace resolution would not ensure that the base would be made immediately available. Moreover, they have recently received indications from Cairo that Egyptians may be coming round to accepting earlier British formula in which specific reference to "global war" was made and which would fully meet British requirements.

British are "delighted" and "heartened" by Secretary's conversation with Egyptian Ambassador (Department telegram 649 to Cairo

¹ Repeated to Cairo as telegram 61.