

repeated London 3095) of which they learned from British Embassy Washington.

Stevenson, who left yesterday for Egypt, is not carrying any new proposals regarding Suez talks, but was instructed to sound Egyptians out of an early date along lines proposals put forward by British at October 21 meeting.

Eden is meeting this afternoon with Conservative back-benchers (Embassy telegram 2534)² in effort allay their fears.

ALDRICH

² Not printed.

No. 1252

#1174/12-1252: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt*¹

SECRET PRIORITY. WASHINGTON, December 12, 1953—11:09 a. m.

656. Following Secretary's talk Egyptian Ambassador, reported Department's telegram 649 to Cairo, repeated 3095 London, Ambassador discussed situation by telephone with Nasir. Apparently decision reached Ambassador return Cairo for consultation shortly after December 15. Ambassador states Nasir said no decision would be reached prior Ambassador's discussion in Cairo.

Hussein tells us he will make determined try Cairo but very pessimistic chances of success. He believes Egyptian Government will take view that British do not really want agreement and that if they make concessions on two remaining outstanding points British will thereafter raise other obstacles (believe Hussein personally holds this view).

Hussein feels he might have chance convincing Government to accept British position, or something similar thereto, on two outstanding points if he were in position state United States would guarantee total agreement would then be possible.

We believe point raised by Hussein represents honest concern of Egyptians and does not seem unreasonable. Nor does it seem improper, in return for strong support we giving British, for United States to have assurances along same lines. This particularly true as in past British have asked for and received our support on points they classified as all-important and final only to raise additional points for our support subsequently.

¹ Also sent priority to London as telegram 3133.