

duration with provision for consultation on future arrangements at some period, which Allen said would be one year, before expiration; Egyptians have made counter-proposal; (4) terms of RAF staging facilities still to be determined.

Re withdrawal, Allen said British willing give oral assurances to Egyptians that they would start withdrawing troops as soon as heads of agreement signed provided situation in Canal Zone at that time should permit this. Allen declared, however, present situation would not so permit as Egyptians would have to cooperate in suppression incidents such as have been recently occurring and in general "improve atmosphere".

Allen states that points (1) and (4) above are essential to British: (4) because of need for facilities and (1) because if British committed to evacuation 15 months from signature heads of agreement, Egyptians would be free to stall on definitive agreement and thus obligate British troop evacuation without signing definitive agreement. British also attach considerable importance to points (2) and (3) but anticipate they could be agreed with Egyptians without too much difficulty.

Allen regards above four numbered points in different category from availability and uniforms, as Egyptians have definitely said no on latter but have refused to say either yes or no on former. British could draft heads of agreement document they would be willing to sign but have not done so because of Egyptian unwillingness to discuss above four numbered topics on which British feel Egyptians are holding out for bargaining purposes, before agreement reached on availability and uniforms (Cairo's 516, October 28).⁴

BUTTERWORTH

⁴ Ambassador Caffery reported in telegram 516 from Cairo, Oct. 28, not printed, that the British in Cairo had received instructions to stand fast on their bargaining position with the Egyptians. (641.74/10-2853)

No. 1255

641.74/12-1653: Telegram

*The Chargé in France (Achilles) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

PARIS, December 16, 1953—4 p. m.

2311. Secretary in private luncheon conversation with Eden December 15 initiated discussion Egypt by stressing:

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 557 and to Cairo as telegram 27.