

Kindest regards,

WINSTON

No. 1258

Presidential Correspondence, lot 68 D 204, "Eisenhower Correspondence with Churchill"

President Eisenhower to Prime Minister Churchill

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 20, 1953.

MY DEAR WINSTON: You are so well aware of my convictions as to the necessity for sound and friendly Anglo-American relations that you must keenly realize the concern I feel over the somber tone of your cabled message.¹

Because it is a personal communication, I am answering in the same fashion, without waiting to call together the State Department staffs which will be, of course, deeply interested in what you have to say. I shall hope to get this cable off to you the first thing Monday morning so that I may have your further observations on certain delicate phases of this matter.

In considering our common interests in various areas, I am, of course, anxious to take into consideration your particular political problems and to adjust our activities so as best to accommodate your position so long as this leads toward a satisfactory solution. We likewise have our political problems. For example, our aid program for the Mid-East was drawn up and was approved by the Congress on the basis that there would be a reasonable division of aid between Israel and Arab countries.

Since we have already made allocations to Israel, we have little excuse to avoid moving in the case of the Arab countries, but as you know, at your request we have not only withheld military aid from Egypt, but have likewise postponed several times the initiation of economic aid.

You state that the Socialist Opposition would be bitterly resentful of American economic aid to Egypt because of the American objection to trade with Communist China. It has been my understanding that Britain has continued to carry on trade in economic non-strategic items with Red China, and we do not now propose more with respect to Egypt than beginning to help develop its economy. Consequently, I am at a loss to understand the basis on which the Socialists could make a logical attack. You likewise mention that the Opposition would resent any economic aid to Egypt so bit-

¹ Presumably the reference here is to Churchill's message of Dec. 19, *supra*.