

UN formula was brought up when Egyptians turned down Turkey and therefore considers his current offer to be in lieu of reference to UN.)

Nasir pointed out that Egyptian public is expecting decision as to government's "new foreign policy" and that he had to know very soon "whether there is going to be agreement or not." (In this connection he also reiterated that Egypt could never accept British position on uniforms.)

Nasir said he has been delaying foreign policy consultations to prevent situation from "jelling" pending an indication of British reaction to his concession on availability but that situation cannot be allowed to drift much longer. Embassy Officer urged that Egyptians continue to wait a while longer. Importance of avoiding any new crisis was particularly stressed. He appeared to take latter point and remarked that government has internal security situation well in hand.

CAFFERY

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 No. 1280

641.74/2-1064: Telegram

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

SECRET

LONDON, February 10, 1954—6 p. m.

3438. Our telegram 3389,<sup>2</sup> gives present situation here regarding Anglo-Egyptian problem.

It obvious Eden facing difficult decision in light of joint estimate by two Embassies Cairo, that Egyptians will not accept current British position on availability and uniforms. There is already considerable opposition in Conservative Party to the British position, so Eden can anticipate even greater trouble if he decides offer concessions to Egypt for sake reaching agreement. In my opinion, this problem is so serious it may take sometime before decision is reached especially as Eden away.

I am sure Eden is anxious to go through with a settlement, in spite of opposition he will continue to face within his own party. His Parliamentary position, however, is complicated by fact that

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo as telegram 88 and to Berlin as telegram 97.

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 3389 from London, Feb. 8, not printed, Aldrich reported that the Foreign Office thought the joint estimate was excellent and was using it as the basis for a review of the Egyptian situation in order that the Cabinet could determine the next move. Aldrich also reported that the British Government continued to face considerable domestic difficulties regarding Egypt. (641.74/2-854)