

leaders of Labor Party and probably bulk of that Party favor agreement with Egypt along general lines he has been pursuing. This of course, does not help Eden with his own Party, especially with opposition losing no opportunity criticize government on issue and point up dissension among Conservatives. Moreover, Eden does not appear to be getting full support from Cabinet, especially Churchill and Alexander.

Although Secretary will undoubtedly be discussing foregoing in Berlin with Eden, latter is unlikely to be willing modify British position, particularly regarding uniforms, before he returns here and confers with Cabinet colleagues. It might therefore, possibly be helpful, in event that Secretary is unable to persuade Eden to do this, for me to have talk with Churchill following Secretary's final conversation on subject with Eden in Berlin and just prior to Eden's return here. If this suggestion commends itself, I should appreciate receiving appropriate instructions. ³

ALDRICH

³ In connection with this telegram, Aldrich reported in telegram 3462, Feb. 12, not printed, that Prime Minister Churchill the previous evening had said with great emphasis that he was not prepared to make any further concessions either on uniforms or availability; that Selwyn Lloyd said that the Cabinet would not consider Egypt until Eden had returned from Berlin; and that he, Aldrich, recommended that his suggestion in telegram 3433 be withdrawn. (641.74/2-1254)

No. 1281

741.56374/2-1254: Telegram

The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State ¹

SECRET

CAIRO, February 12, 1954—11 a. m.

901. I told Stevenson about my 891, February 9. Nasir still stands on what he told me as quoted by you in your 87, February 10. ² He says, however, that it would jeopardize his influence for him to argue RCC into accepting Turkish concession and then be confronted by London turndown. He has done some preliminary soundings, and while he is reasonably confident he can put idea across (I am

¹ Sent priority to London as telegram 297 and repeated to the Department.

² In telegram 87 from London to Cairo sent to the Department as telegram 3429, Feb. 10, not printed, Ambassador Aldrich reported that the Embassy was perplexed to note in telegram 891 from Cairo, Document 1279, that Nasir had not yet referred to the RCC his offer to include Turkey in the immediate availability formula. It was the Embassy's understanding, on the basis of telegram 836 from Cairo, Document 1275, that Nasir had done this. Aldrich also asked if Stevenson had been informed of the conversation reported in telegram 891 from Cairo, as the Embassy in London had not discussed the matter with the Foreign Office. (741.56374/2-1054)