

confident he can) in context UK accepting Egyptian position on uniforms, he is reluctant to have agreement opponents in RCC say "we told you so" if and when UK rejects the deal he has proposed. His prestige would undoubtedly suffer.

In final analysis Nasir must decide how his RCC colleagues can best be handled.

On his side Nasir has repeatedly asked if I had received a reply to his offer from London. I counseled patience on his part.

He would put "Turkey" proposal to RCC if London would give some indication of approval in principle.

Furthermore, Nasir has very much in mind what took place before and after "Washington conference". Before the conference I extracted vast concessions from Nasir on his assumption that we would obtain concessions from British in return. He alleges British accepted his concessions but made no significant moves on their part.

CAFFERY

No. 1282

661.74/2-1254: Telegram

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

SECRET

CAIRO, February 12, 1954—2 p. m.

*902. Reliable Egyptian source yesterday told Embassy officer in strictest confidence that Soviet Minister of Trade had made attractive offer to Egyptian economic mission recently in Moscow² for Soviet assistance to Egypt in construction of High Aswan Dam. Source declined reveal details but stated Russians had cleverly made offer "subject to Colonel Abdal Nasir's personal approval". Two members of Egyptian mission returned Cairo to transmit proposals to Nasir while remainder of group waited in Moscow.

Source, who was present when two members reported to Nasir, said latter listened attentively to enthusiastic account of Russian proposals. After hearing delegates out, Nasir's comment was: "That is all very fascinating, but I should put both of you under arrest because you have come back Communists". Nasir then reportedly gave orders that the two envoys should remain in Cairo and remainder of mission should return with fullest information on Rus-

¹ Repeated to London as telegram 298, to Berlin as telegram 6, and to Moscow as telegram 2.

² According to telegram 867 from Moscow, Jan. 18, not printed, the Egyptian economic delegation had arrived in Moscow on Jan. 16. (461.7431/1-1854)