

timed with reopening UK-Egyptian negotiations on Suez, should have favorable effect on negotiations.

Eden was non-committal but did not argue against my thesis. He said Egyptians had recently arrested an Egyptian in Canal Zone involved in recent incident and that this was encouraging. He had just authorized Stevenson to tell Egyptian Foreign Minister that touchstone for renewal of Suez talks was evidence of Egyptian willingness to act firmly to protect British troops against incidents of type they had been subjected to. In any event, Eden said that it was next to impossible to progress on Egyptian problem while he was at Geneva. He indicated matters would have to wait until he returned to London and could take them in hand personally.

I explained I did not expect an immediate answer. Eden agreed to reflect and intimated that he would give me his more considered reaction within a few days.

DULLES

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No. 1325

741.56374/4-2254: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, April 22, 1954—5:21 p. m.

5580. We would prefer bilateral UK-Egyptian agreement for operation (Embtel 4640)<sup>2</sup> and maintenance of Base. Should both Egypt and UK desire USG become party to tripartite agreement, we prepared consider specific suggestions.

Single comprehensive Anglo-Egyptian agreement with technical annex detailing arrangements for maintenance and operation appears to offer certain advantages. (Drafting of comprehensive agreement and negotiation of technical annex would follow agreement in principle and subsequent moves mentioned second para Deptel 5367.) RCC might prefer presenting to Egyptian people one agreement in which "achievement of Egyptian's national aspirations" could be emphasized and future arrangements played down. Separate agreement on future operations would have to stand on

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo as telegram 1306. Drafted by Burdett and approved by Jernegan.

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 4640 from London, Apr. 22, not printed, the Embassy informed the Department that the Foreign Office would appreciate receiving the Department's views regarding the proposal for a tripartite agreement which would have detailed arrangements for the operation and maintenance of the Suez Base. (641.74/4-2254)