

Foreign Office wishes study memorandum before commenting.

ALDRICH

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No. 1333

641.74/6-1154

*Memorandum for the Files, by the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (Merchant)*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, June 11, 1954.

Ambassador Aldrich told me that yesterday after lunch Anthony Head,<sup>1</sup> who I believe is Secretary of the Army, had told him that after two months' effort he had secured the Prime Minister's agreement to reopen the Suez negotiations. He said he had an appointment with Sir Winston that same afternoon to discuss timing and tactics. This piece of information developed apparently from a discussion between the Ambassador and Mr. Head on the bearing on Southeast Asian policy of the absence of any British strategic reserve.

LTM

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<sup>1</sup> The British Secretary of State for War.

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No. 1334

741.56374/6-1254: Circular airmgram

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

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, June 12, 1954.

CA-7323. Subject: Anglo-Egyptian Negotiations. Reference is made to Embassy Despatch No. 3966 of June 4, 1954.<sup>2</sup> The Department is deeply impressed with the need for moving quickly on the Suez Base negotiations. It finds disturbing the indication that, following cabinet approval of the "new" (March 17) proposals, the Foreign Office contemplates engaging in further discussion with this Government "regarding the manner in which the proposals should be put to the Egyptians".

The Department has indicated its views on this subject (Deptels 5163 of April 3 and 5367 of April 12). Without commenting in detail, a Foreign Office official indicated on April 13 that these

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo; approved by Byroads.

<sup>2</sup> Not printed.