

wait till we are together for our weekend meeting,¹ to which I am so keenly looking forward.

With kindest regards,

WINSTON

¹ Prime Minister Churchill was referring to his impending trip to the United States. He and Foreign Secretary Eden were in Washington from June 25 to June 29 for a series of meetings with President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles. For information regarding their discussion of the Egyptian situation, see telegrams 1601 and 1602 to Cairo, *infra* and Document 1337. Documentation regarding the conference as a whole is scheduled for publication in volume vi, Part 1.

No. 1336

641.74/6-2854: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt*¹

SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, June 28, 1954—6:38 p. m.

1601. For Ambassador. Considerable time devoted Egypt in week-end talks here with British.² Sending in immediately following message Agreed Secret Minute on Egypt approved by Mr. Eden.

It obvious in opening discussions that British had decided reopen negotiations and push for early agreement. Churchill has decided defend such a course primarily in view desire HMG move their forces in Egypt elsewhere.

As regards timing, Eden explained he felt they could not start talks prior to his and Churchill's return London. It is their present intention to move within couple days after return.

Proposals they will present essentially those we have known for some time. One exception is they have decided greatly reduce Base area to be maintained. This will necessitate greater effort in disposition supplies and equipment which will take longer than originally anticipated. They feel, therefore, minimum of 24 months required for evacuation.

As regards duration British feel new approach which calls for evacuation all armed forces should entitle them longer agreement. Secretary stressed political difficulty going beyond 7 years as this already public figure. He suggested two methods of approach. One was as British now in position surrender large portion Base in two years, Egyptians might in turn extend rights to smaller portion retained for longer period. Other was that parts of Agreement other

¹ Repeated priority to London as telegram 7144. Drafted and approved by Byroade.

² See footnote 1, *supra*.