

(b) Withdrawal period. This question "major political importance" for RCC which wants no British troops in country when elections to which RCC committed are held in January 1956. (Britains believe Nasir disposed to help them on this if he can find a way to do so. Present calculation is that at end 15 months, Britains will have 9,000 pioneers and 5,000 working troops and about 3,000 guards.)

(c) Duration period. Nasir reiterated previous arguments that he is irrevocably committed to seven years and then pointed out following reasons why United Kingdom should accept this offer:

1. Egypt is conceding to United Kingdom for first time a base in Egypt; 1936 Treaty provided no base rights.

2. By proposed agreement, Egypt is "irrevocably tying herself up with the West"; he will have considerable difficulties on this score and to go beyond seven years would make greater difficulties.

3. Last summer United Kingdom agreed to seven years as fulfilling British interests; he failed to see how civilianization of base could change this period.

5. British Embassy hopeful that London's instructions will be received in time for another meeting Saturday, but no date fixed. <sup>2</sup>

CAFFERY

<sup>2</sup> In telegram 297 from London, July 16, not printed, Ambassador Aldrich reported that the Foreign Office had given the Embassy no indication that the British would agree to a 7-year duration; that the British apparently would not insist on the inclusion of Iran in the availability formula in view of the Egyptians' objections; that with regard to the attitude of Iraq, the Foreign Office did not attach much importance to the Iraqi position; and that owing to Eden's absence, it would not be possible to get instructions to Stevenson to enable him to meet again when he had hoped to with the Egyptians. (641.74/7-1654)

### No. 1345

641.74/7-2054: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State* <sup>1</sup>

SECRET PRIORITY

CAIRO, July 20, 1954—10 a. m.

86. British Embassy this morning gave us following account last night's meeting which lasted from 10-12:15:

Except for clearing up certain minor points Stevenson was only authorized probe Egyptian position on duration and withdrawal. "He got nowhere" with Egyptians sticking to 15 months and 7 years. Since British not authorized commit themselves they tried hard put ideas in heads of Egyptians. Stevenson made it plain he

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London as telegram 21.