

No. 1366

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*Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade) to the Secretary of State*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, October 27, 1954.

Subject: Military Assistance to Egypt

I. Sequence of Events:

(a) *December 9, 1952*—Signature of reimbursable military assistance agreement under Section 408(e).

(b) *July 15, 1953*—Letter from President Eisenhower to General Naguib, stating that we would enter into firm commitments to provide Egypt with military and economic assistance simultaneously with the signature of an agreement in principle on the Suez Base.

(c) *July 27, 1954*—Signature of "Heads of Agreement" between the UK and Egypt on the Suez Base.

(d) *August 2, 1954*—Draft of military assistance agreement given to Egypt by Caffery.

(e) *August 29, 1954*—Egyptian Foreign Minister informed Caffery Egyptian Government had decided not to request military aid from the US at this time because of internal political considerations which required the Government to move slowly towards closer association with the West.

(f) *August 30, 1954*—Egyptian Ambassador informed the Department that Colonel Nasir did not wish to be understood as rejecting US military aid in principle. Because of internal opposition he wished to postpone a decision for the time being.

(g) During this period Colonel Nasir sent several messages . . . emphasizing that he was not rejecting US military aid but merely postponing negotiations.

(h) *October 19, 1954*—Signature of final Suez Base Agreement.

(i) *October 22, 1954*—Egyptian Ambassador informed the Department that because of the good reception given the final Suez Base Agreement and the generally improved internal political situation, Colonel Nasir wished to resume negotiations on military aid.

¹ This memorandum was drafted by Burdett.