

London. The French have clearly calmed down about the need to send Mysteres to Israel immediately but unless some alternative concrete means can be found to take action against Nasser I feel that subject of Mysteres for Israel will continue to be brought up with greater insistence by the French.

Joxe said that he had heard that Murphy would be in London Monday morning and inquired if there was really no possibility of the Secretary's coming. I repeated that the Secretary would in any event not reach Washington until Sunday afternoon and that as indicated by our Chargé in London the Secretary did not think it would be advisable or appropriate for him to come immediately to London. Joxe said that he regretted this decision because meeting in London would lose some of its importance and Nasser would be apt to feel that U.S. did not place importance on issue equal to that placed by French and British. In spite of assurances that I had given him earlier that U.S. took very serious view of situation, he wondered whether U.S. fully realized the gravity with which the French and British Governments regarded the affair. I again reassured him that we considered the situation to be very serious and were giving it our entire attention.

Dillon

19. Editorial Note

At 7 p.m. on July 28, British Ambassador Makins handed to Under Secretary Hoover a note from the British Embassy entitled "Suez Canal: Oil Supplies", which made the following points:

(1) joint planning by the governments and oil industries of the United States and the United Kingdom was an urgent necessity and should concentrate on formulating plans to ensure a steady supply of oil, if the Suez Canal were closed and the pipeline supplies interrupted;

(2) both government and industry should be engaged in the joint planning process; and

(3) the British Government was prepared to obtain the assistance of British industry through the government's Oil Supplies Advisory Committee; and wished that the United States Government would put comparable procedures in motion. (Department of State, Central Files, 974.7301/7-2856)