

international control, guaranteeing free navigation and open use of the Suez Canal and continuity of efficient administration.

"(IV) Such arrangements should preferably be associated with the United Nations.

"(V) The legitimate interests of Egypt would be fully respected."

At this meeting, the delegates also continued their discussion of the Canal dues question and the criteria for selecting conference participants. Accounts of this meeting are in British Foreign Office, "Record of a Meeting Held in the Council Chamber, Foreign Office, at 6 p.m. on July 30, 1956," and "London Tripartite Conversations," pages 32-43. (Both in Department of State, Conference Files: Lot 62 D 181, CF 724)

Telegram 593 to London, July 30, written in response to Murphy's report on the third tripartite meeting that morning, arrived in London too late to provide guidance for the 6 p.m. meeting. In telegram 593 the Department forwarded its own version of a draft communiqué for Murphy's guidance. It reads as follows:

"(1) The Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States regard the Suez Canal as an international waterway of vital importance and an essential factor in the whole world economy and consider that it should continue to be operated in accordance with the Convention of October 29, 1888.

"(2) They consider that the action taken by the Government of Egypt to nationalize the Universal Suez Canal Company threatens the use of the Canal as contemplated by the Convention and that it is necessary that steps be taken to assure that the signatories of the Convention and all of the other powers entitled to enjoy the benefits of the Convention shall in fact secure such benefits.

"(3) Accordingly, they propose that a conference should be held of the signatories of the Convention and of the principal users of the Canal to consider what steps should be taken to assure the continued operation of the Canal in accordance with the Convention of October 29, 1888. Such arrangements would in any event respect the legitimate interests of Egypt, including a fair financial return from the operation of the Canal.

"The invitation to the conference will be made by governments signatory thereto and the United States of America has indicated that it is prepared to take part in such a conference."

Telegram 593 also informed Murphy that, in regard to evacuation, the Embassy in Cairo had advised against taking special precautionary measures at that time, as it would tend to exaggerate tensions. (*Ibid.*, Central Files, 974.7301/7-3056)

In response to telegram 593, Murphy forwarded to the Department the text of the "First Redraft of Communiqué", developed at the 6 p.m. meeting, with the comment that it represented "whittling down of more aggressive draft by UK and France" and that Murphy had agreed to recommend its approval to the Department. Murphy