

noted that the Department's proposed revisions, contained in telegram 593, would require the deletion of the reference to operating arrangements "under international control" in paragraph 3 of the revised draft communiqué and that both Lloyd and Pineau had stressed that they considered this provision to be the key feature. Murphy, however, believed that the Department's other proposed revisions would be acceptable to the British and French. (Telegram 547 from London, July 30; *ibid.*, 396.1-LO/7-3056) This telegram was sent from London at 11 p.m., July 30, and received in the Department at 8:16 p.m., July 30.

Later that evening Murphy reported to the Department on the major developments at the 6 p.m. meeting. The delegates had agreed that the Western powers should not submit the matter to the United Nations at this stage; but the British and French still held firmly to their position that attendance at the conference should be based on membership in the International Chamber of Shipping. When Murphy persisted in his earlier position on attendance, Lloyd suggested that the United Kingdom alone might issue the invitations to the conference, thereby relieving the United States of responsibility for choosing participants. Lloyd also suggested that the conference be held between August 7 and 9 and he urged that a quick consensus be reached on how Canal dues would be paid. The British Prime Minister then raised the possibility that the three nations might make a public statement affirming that its ships were paying dues to Egypt only under protest. (Telegram 551 from London, July 30, and telegram 549 from London, July 30; both *ibid.*, 396.1-LO/7-3156)

33. Telegram From the Embassy in the United Kingdom to the Department of State¹

London, July 31, 1956—2 a.m.

550. Eyes only for Secretary and Under Secretary from Murphy. Today and this evening Barbour and I have had private separate and lengthy talks with Eden and Macmillan. These will be recounted in greater detail in other messages² but I want to segregate one urgent

¹ Source: Department of State, Central Files, 674.84A/7-3156. Top Secret; Niact; No Other Distribution. Received at 10:17 p.m., July 30.

² No other messages relating to Murphy's private talks with Eden and Macmillan on July 30 have been found in Department of State files. "London Tripartite Conversations", (p. 31a) indicates that an Anglo-American meeting between Murphy