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FROM: ELATH MEMISRAEL LONDON

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Comay copy Eban. Further my 10641. Had more talks number  
influencial MPs and friendly editors from whom gathered following:

ONE British public opinion becoming increasingly aware  
recent months vital importance Suez for maintenance and defence  
British strategic positions political interests entire area  
including Africa. Although it is realised that settlement with  
Egypt must be reached before 1956, frustration bitterness over  
British retreat in Sudan (largely inarticulate but evident) makes  
Britain prepared present juncture offer firmer resistance further  
surrenders Egypt whether under American pressure or in face  
Egyptian threats.

TWO HMG encouraged by support recently received from  
Australian South African govts over Commonwealth interests Suez.  
Australian position publicly stated by Casey South African by  
Malan through High Com. here.

THREE Neguibs prestige here has declined considerably since  
his efforts improve internal conditions Egypt remain limited  
speeches unsupported by action.

FOUR These circumstances Churchill confident obtaining necess  
public parliamentary support for use force against force at first  
sign outbreak renewed trouble Egypt. He counts on support not onl  
own party but also large section Labour members and leaders  
including Attlee Morrison Gaitskell many others.

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FIVE Though FO fears continued American pressure favour further British concessions to Neguib military circles here anticipate greater understanding from Pentagon when practical military implications Neguib's intransigence for defence whole area become clearer.

SIX Believed here Dulles will be presented on arrival Cairo with virtual ultimatum at least from Egypt possibly also from entire Arab League: either he gets British consent unconditional withdrawal or troubles will follow. Understand strenuous efforts being made by British envoys Arab capitals isolate Neguib or at least prevent League unanimity this issue

SEVEN In order keep Arab states Neguib may even threaten separate peace with Israel as a bargaining counter, though I agree reliable medinit source in thinking this threat unlikely go further than proposals on lines UN decisions 1947.

We should in these circumstances prepare for possible carefully planned " peace campaign " by Neguib both for internal League reasons as well as view meeting Dulles possible overtures this subject. Eban informed.

ELATH

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