

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

TOP SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

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By <u>NND</u>	NARS, Date

Cairo, June 23, 1953

Dear Pete:

I have read with interest your note of June 15 regarding the letter which Gamal Abd Al Nasir is supposed to have written to an Israeli addressee.

We have known for some time that Nasir has a friend in Israel, dating from Palestine War days. I therefore have had one of the Embassy officers ask him frankly but informally if there is anything to the story which you cited.

Abd Al Nasir's reply was: "I have written no letters since July 23" (1952). The inference is that he may very well have written such a letter at some time in the past but, if he did, it was in a purely personal capacity.

I continue to believe that there is little prospect at this juncture of the Arabs agreeing to an over-all peace settlement except on terms which Israel is clearly unprepared to accept. Furthermore the other Arab states, in return for their support of Egypt's stand on the Canal Zone issue, have obviously extracted in return the assurance that Egypt will not break the united Arab front against Israel. The hopes which we once held that Egypt might be induced to move unilaterally on this issue are therefore considerably dimmed. I need hardly add, however, that a settlement

of the . . .

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Washington 25, D.C.

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