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(as put together by D.H.)

18 Aug. 56

Ben-Gurion, David (Prime Minister of Israel)

- 1 letter from D.H.

18 August 1956

Dear Mr. Ben-Gurion,

My reaction to the developments the last few days is, as far as the public expressions go, known to you from my statements of 16 and 17 August. What, on the basis of present information, has to be added from my side in the case of Israel, lies on a personal level and must be evident to you from our talks a month ago, when I tried to make clear what my stand was, legally, morally and politically. In these circumstances it may seem that I have no reason to address a message to you. However, there are two points which I think should be clarified.

I sent you some days ago a letter concerning certain pending practical questions. I can imagine that it may be felt in Jerusalem that, as things have developed, you have less reason than before to accept our proposals. I venture to hold the opposite view. In my view sound political logic should lead to the conclusion that, if you blame us for the inability of the UN organs to assist, you should not, on the other hand, stall on such cooperation as would increase our possibilities to be of help. We have not been able, in the last few months, to register much of a cooperative attitude from your side in relation to our efforts. This fact is a discouraging background for our consideration of the latest developments.

The second point I feel I should make in order to avoid ambiguities, is the following one. I have in the past few months engaged myself for various initiatives of a more or less far-reaching nature. I believe that you agree that all of them, if

His Excellency
Mr. David Ben-Gurion
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
Jerusalem
Israel

successful, would have been valuable from a general point of view - as steps towards peaceful conditions - but that, more specifically, they would have been helpful for you. However, it is perfectly clear that these initiatives have been taken and pursued, or would be taken up, provided peaceful conditions were maintained in the region. We all share a responsibility for helping towards the creation and maintenance of such conditions. As a matter of course I shall not relax in my efforts, but if we were not to register any progress beyond where we now stand, it will have to be in a spirit of "quand même".

It is with regret that I put these observations on paper, but if I fail in such frankness to you, I would feel that I failed in a basic obligation to a friend which is independent of all political developments.