

**Middle East - Suez story No
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Suez story - 19

(as put together by O.H.)

3 Oct. 56

Ben-Gurion, David (Prime Minister of Israel)

- 1 letter from O.H.

Mr. Hammarskjöld
Mr. David Ben-Gurion
Prime Minister and Minister of Defense
Jerusalem

3 October 1956

Your letter of 26 September brought back to me the atmosphere in which we have met personally and conducted our talks in Jerusalem - talks which to me were an experience from which I have profited greatly both on a deeply human level and in my activities on behalf of the U.N. You have in this letter expressed again with all your depth of conviction, but also all your warmth of heart, what are those basic views which guide your actions.

We have had a long exchange of letters where we have both remained true to our own views on those problems in regard to which you shoulder such heavy responsibilities and I, myself, also have responsibilities, although of a different kind and on a different level. We have had to conduct that exchange of letters under the principles proper to our different positions. As things have turned out, we may on that level have seemed to drift apart. Given the events and situations to which we have had to react, that may have been difficult to avoid. I don't think that either of us would have respected the other one for compromises or evasions accepted only in order to smooth out our differences. For me, however, the understanding established in our direct contacts has always remained a kind of "ultimate reality".

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

With the very full exchange of views that has taken place, I do not believe that there is any reason for me to take up the specific points which you present again in your letter. Let that letter be the last word in this phase of our contact, a last word for which I want to send you my warm thanks!

In the final paragraph of your letter you mention my visit to Palestine. After having explained what are my difficulties, I think I can in this context limit myself to saying that the discussion of the Suez question in the Security Council has, at least for the time being, made it practically impossible for me to go. I have agreed with your representatives to look at the situation again some time next week. At all events, I feel personally just as engaged as ever in the effort to achieve true peace in the Middle East. In that effort your views, again so nobly expressed in your letter - whether shared by me or not - will always remain fully understood and most carefully taken into account.