

**Middle East - Suez story No  
19-24: Middle East - Suez  
story No 19-24 - 53**

*HS L 179:112*



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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

L 179:112

Middle East / Suez story - Nr. 23

(as put together by Dag Hammarskjöld  
and kept in his safe in his office, U.N. HQ)

23 Nov. - 14 Dec. 56

Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Middle East / Suez story. 23

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23 - 26 Nov. 56

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- Goldmann, Nahum (World Jewish Congress)

- 1 letter to D.H.

- Read, James M. (U.N. High Commissioner  
for Refugees, USA Branch.)

- 1 letter to D.H.

C O P Y

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

15 East 84th Street  
New York 28, N.Y.

November  
23rd,  
1956

BY HAND

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
First Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold:

I hope you will excuse me that I approach you in these days with so many harrassing problems facing you but the matter is urgent and serious.

The World Jewish Congress has received information from quite reliable sources, among them the Italian Foreign Minister and people who have left Egypt these days that the Egyptian Government has arrested about 600 Jews in Alexandria and Cairo and has ordered all stateless Jews whose number is about 15,000 to leave Egypt within three days or be deported to some camps in the desert.

It is hard for me to believe that even in the present crisis the Egyptian Government should resort to such brutal measures but the reports came, as I said, from responsible people. We decided not to publish this story before having more confirmation.

I, therefore, take the liberty of asking you, dear Mr. Hammarskjold, with the many channels you have with Egypt to have the report checked and if it should prove to be true to use your great influence with the Egyptian Government to warn them against such measures which are not only cruel from the human point of view but must, naturally, have the effect to make the existing crisis still graver as, naturally, the Jewish organizations will not keep quiet about it and come out with strong public protests.

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In view of your heavy burden these days I decided not to ask to see you but I would be grateful if you would let me have any news after you will have checked the story.

Thanking you in advance I am with many greetings

Very sincerely yours

Wahum Goldmann (signed)  
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UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES  
BRANCH OFFICE FOR THE UNITED STATES



HAUT COMMISSARIAT POUR LES REFUGIES  
DELEGATION POUR LES ETATS UNIS

UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

TELEGRAMME: HICOMREF  
TELEPHONE: PLAZA 4-1234  
EXT. 3673

26 November 1956

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

I take the liberty of sending you herewith a letter from the High Commissioner's Representative in Cairo about measures taken in Egypt against the Jewish population including refugees and stateless persons of Jewish origin.

I understand that Mr. Ivan-Smith did not promise to Mr. Pompe that he would take this matter up with you, this being a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Pompe.

Mr. Martin Hill, with whom I have discussed the whole situation, suggested that it should be urgently brought to your attention.

In view of the important negotiations which you are holding with the Egyptian Government, I wish to ask for your advice as to whether I should at present approach the Foreign Minister of Egypt on this matter or whether you yourself wish to take the matter up with him.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Read".

James M. Read

Mr. D. Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

Enc. - Letter to Mr. Read from Mr. Pompe of 18 November 1956.

Mr. Paulzweig(?) at the World Jewish Congress had been asked by Dr. Goldman (who was attending a meeting) to pass on the following information to you;

The information was received over London by telephone and has been confirmed to the WJC representatives in Italy by the Italian Government:

On Thursday the Military Governor in Cairo published an order, expelling all stateless Jews from Egypt. This automatically applies to all Jews naturalized after 1932. Those naturalized between 1925 and 1932 must apply for permission to stay. Only those naturalized before 1900 ~~are~~ can expect to be certain - this comprises only 4 families.

Mr. Paulzweig went on to say that there were 14,000 stateless Jews, 6000 British and French citizens and 5,000 others who would have to get out. 3,000 Jews are interned in the French Lycee in Cairo and in Alexandria, at Victoria College. Some are also in a military camp outside Cairo. Inside Cairo 150 Jews are known to be held, among them at least one only 9 years old.

The Chief Rabbi has resigned in protest. Mr. Paulzweig added that this Rabbi is very old and extremely moderate. He seemed to think that this resignation would not have taken place if the situation had not been extremely serious.

The Italian Consulate is issuing visas only to people who have family in Italy. 200 have arrived in Switzerland by air, but as air-tickets are on the "black market" where the price is tripled, this is not an easy way out.

On behalf of Dr. Goldman Mr. Paulzweig asked for the Secretary-General's intervention, and regretted that in view of the seriousness of the information received, the World Jewish Congress felt compelled to publish the above.

27 November - 12 noon.

Aa.A.