

**Middle East - Suez story No
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story No 19-24 - 56**

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Middle East / Suez story - Nr. 24

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

5 - 18 Dec. 56

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Middle East / Suez story - 24

6 Dec. 56

Dixon, Pierson (U.K. Delegation to the U.N.)

- 1 letter to D.H.
- 1 letter (draft) from D.H.

C o p y

United Kingdom Delegation
to the United Nations,
New York
December 6, 1956

Dear Secretary-General,

I have been asked by my Government to raise with you urgently the question of British subjects interned in Egypt. As you know, this is a matter which is arousing strong feelings in the United Kingdom.

On November 13 the Egyptian Government informed the Swiss Legation in Cairo that there would be no collective internment of the British community but that certain individuals were being interned "either for reasons of security or for reasons of protection". The Egyptian Government added that "as soon as the situation returned to normal" those interned would be freed.

This was interpreted by Her Majesty's Government as meaning that the British subjects interned would be held until the Allied Forces withdrew from Egypt. Now that the withdrawal is proceeding, Her Majesty's Government consider that the time has come for the Egyptian Government to fulfil its promise.

Our information from the Swiss authorities suggests that the only British subjects still interned in Egypt are 448 United Kingdom-based employees of the Suez Canal base contractors' companies together with a few of their locally engaged employees. These men are harmless civilians who were engaged in carrying out (to the often-expressed satisfaction of the Egyptian Government) tasks arising from the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of 1954. There can be no reasons of security or protection for which the Egyptian Government could properly hold them. Even if there were such reasons they would equally well be served by the repatriation of those concerned. The Anglo-Egyptian Agreement on the Suez Canal base (Annex 2, Part A, paragraph 8 (b)) specifically provided that "the Government of the Republic of Egypt shall give facilities for the entry into and exit from Egypt of British technicians and their families". There appears to be no reason why this provision should not be honoured by the Egyptian Government.

Her Majesty's Government hope that you may feel able to remind Dr. Fawzi of the Egyptian Government's promise about the release of the interned British subjects, and to press him to have them released and repatriated at once. They would like to receive an assurance on this point which could be made public.

I am making this approach to you in writing in order to spare your time. I should, however, be glad to discuss this question with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Pierson Dixon (signed)

His Excellency,
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld
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D R A F T

Dear Mr. Ambassador (~~Broustra~~ - Sir Pierson)

On the basis of an exchange of views with the Foreign Minister of Egypt I wish to inform you that I have, as Secretary-General, received the assurance of the Government of Egypt that, generally speaking, the deportation of British and French nationals may now be considered as a closed chapter and that, after the deportation orders already issued are either carried out or rescinded, it is not intended, as a rule to issue further orders. I am further informed by the Government of Egypt that exceptionally there may be a few more deportations which may prove necessary as a result of investigations being carried out at present, but should the need for such orders arise, it is certain that their number will be comparatively insignificant. I am finally informed that the policy line stated in this assurance applies not only to French and British nationals, but to foreign nationals in general.

Yours sincerely,