

**Middle East - Suez story No  
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3-6 Feb. 57

Eban, Abba (Perm. Represent. of Israel  
to the U.N.)

- 2 letters from D.H.
- 1 letter to D.H.
- 1 Aide Memoire
- 1 statement read to correspondents

3 February 1957

Sir,

..... I have the honour to ask you to bring to the attention of your Government Resolutions I and II (A/3517 and A/3518), copies of which are enclosed, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its meeting of 2-3 February 1957.

You will have observed that numbered paragraph 2 of Resolution I (A/3517), calls for the withdrawal of Israel forces "behind the Armistice Demarcation Line without further delay". It is also to be noted that numbered paragraph 1 of Resolution II (A/3518), refers to measures set forth in the Secretary-General's report which are to be undertaken "upon Israel's complete withdrawal", while the actions envisaged under numbered paragraph 3 are to take place "after full withdrawal of Israel from the Sharm-el-Sheikh and Gaza areas...".

In pursuance of these actions by the General Assembly, I invite you to meet in my office at 3 p.m. on Monday, February 4, at which time I would hope to learn the position of your Government, particularly, as a matter of special urgency, on Resolution I (A/3517).

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

Encl.

His Excellency  
Ambassador Abba Eban  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations  
15 East 70th Street  
New York 21, N.Y.

II

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל  
באומות המאוחדות  
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

5th February  
1957

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have been in touch with my Government on the subject of our conversation yesterday.

The Government of Israel attaches primary importance to the elucidation of the two questions which I presented to you in my Aide Memoire.

An affirmative response from Egypt to the first question, on belligerent acts, would affect my Government's policies on outstanding issues. A positive response to the second would greatly assist us to understand the potential role of UNEF in the creation and maintenance of peaceful conditions.

Accordingly, on the clarification of these basic matters, a position would be created in which the other questions which you raised at yesterday's meeting could be considered in a more practical way.

Yours sincerely,

*Abba Eban*

The Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York.

IV

6 February, 1957

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

In our meeting of 4 February, as you will recall, I drew attention to two points on which you agreed to seek clarification from your Government "immediately". The two points were (1) whether with regard to Gaza it is understood by the Government of Israel that the withdrawal must cover elements of administration as well as military troops, forces and units, and (2) whether, as a question of principle, the Government of Israel agrees to the stationing of units of the UNEF on the Israel side of the Armistice Demarcation Line.

Although undertaking to seek clarification from your Government, you indicated in our discussion and in response to an inquiry on the same matter made of you by Dr. Bunche on 5 February, that the attitude of your Government on these two points is as set forth in your previous Aide-Memoire (A/3511) and in your address to the General Assembly of 28 January. In these two documents, the answer to the first question concerning Gaza is that Israel does not intend to withdraw its civil administration from that territory, while there is no reference at all to the second question concerning stationing of UNEF on the Israel side of the line.

May I also point out that your communication to me of 5 February, although informing me that you have been in touch with

/your

His Excellency  
Mr. Abba Eban,  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations,  
15 East 70th Street,  
New York 21, N.Y.

your Government on the subject of our conversation on the previous days, has to say about the questions I raised only that if "affirmative" and "positive" responses to the questions put by Israel were first obtained, then "a position would be created" in which my questions "could be considered in a more practical way".

In the circumstances, I must assume, at least for the present, that the reply of your Government to my two questions is specifically negative in one instance and essentially so in the other.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

Aide Memoire by the Permanent  
Representative of Israel.

The Government of Israel takes note of the adoption by the General Assembly of two inter-related Resolutions (A/3517 (I) and A/3518 (II) ).

Israel will cooperate with any United Nations effort designed to establish peace in the area, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter.

I am instructed urgently to request the Secretary-General to ask the Government of Egypt whether Egypt agrees to the mutual and full abstention from belligerent acts, by land, air and sea, on the withdrawal of Israel troops. This matter is of central importance to all the questions at issue.

In considering the withdrawal schedule, I am instructed to refer to the Sharm el-Sheikh area, and the related question of measures designed to prevent hostile acts, such as interference with free navigation in the Straits of Tiran and in the Gulf of Aqaba. The General Assembly in its Resolution II has recognised "that withdrawal by Israel must be followed by action which would assure progress towards the creation of peaceful conditions".

A renewal of interference with shipping bound to and from Elath would clearly lead to hostilities and thus prejudice the declared objective of United Nations resolutions. Accordingly, I am instructed to obtain clarification without delay whether, immediately on the withdrawal of Israel forces from the Sharm el-Sheikh area, units of the United Nations Emergency Force will be stationed along the western shore of the Gulf of Aqaba in order to act as a restraint against hostile acts; and will remain so deployed until another effective means is agreed upon between the parties concerned for ensuring permanent freedom of navigation and the absence of belligerent acts in the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba.

A positive response to the above questions from all concerned would greatly facilitate the early fulfilment of United Nations objectives as set forth in the United Nations resolutions taken as a whole.

4 February, 1957

II

ISRAEL

Delegation of Israel  
to the United Nations

5th February  
1957

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have been in touch with my Government on the subject of our conversation yesterday.

The Government of Israel attaches primary importance to the elucidation of the two questions which I presented to you in my Aide Memoire.

An affirmative response from Egypt to the first question, on belligerent acts, would affect my Government's policies on outstanding issues. A positive response to the second would greatly assist us to understand the potential role of UNEF in the creation and maintenance of peaceful conditions.

Accordingly, on the clarification of these basic matters, a position would be created in which the other questions which you raised at yesterday's meeting could be considered in a more practical way.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)  
Abba Eban

The Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

This statement read to  
correspondents at 1.00 pm

III  
ISRAEL

Delegation of Israel  
to the United Nations

6 February 1957

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

In view of the wide public interest, the Delegation of Israel desires to summarize the present position in the implementation of recent General Assembly Resolutions.

An area of 50,000 square kilometers of Egyptian territory has been evacuated by Israel in Sinai in the course of its withdrawal. The repatriation of nearly six thousand Egyptian prisoners of war has been completed.

On 3 February 1957 the General Assembly adopted two resolutions. One called for the completion of the withdrawal of troops. The other recognized "that withdrawal by Israel must be followed by action which would assure progress towards the creation of peaceful conditions" and requested the Secretary-General to take certain measures to this end in consultation with Israel and Egypt.

The General Assembly insisted on voting these resolutions together for the reason stated by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge:

"The adoption of either one without the other would prejudice the achievement of the objective set forth in the resolution of November 2 and would not promote peace and stability in the region."

On 4 February 1957 Israel made proposals for seeking a solution of the problem involved in the two Resolutions of the General Assembly.

In conversations with the Secretary-General, the Israel representative Ambassador Abba Eban sought an assurance from Egypt of mutual abstention from belligerent acts, and raised the question of Sharm el-Sheikh, which is the last area of Sinai under Israel's control.

The main points submitted by Israel in these negotiations have been:-

1. A declaration that "Israel will cooperate with any United Nations effort designed to establish peace in the area, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter".

2. A request to the Secretary-General to ask the Government of Egypt whether it agrees to the mutual and full abstention from belligerent acts, by air, land and sea, on the withdrawal of Israel troops.

3. A reference to the Sharm el-Sheikh area, and the related question of measures designed to prevent interference with free navigation in the Straits of Tiran and in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Israel representative pointed out that a renewal of interference with shipping bound to and from Elath would be a hostile act, and thus have the opposite result to that sought by the United Nations. Accordingly, he asked whether on the withdrawal of Israel forces from the Sharm el-Sheikh area, the United Nations Emergency Force would be so deployed as to ensure freedom of navigation in the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba, until a permanent and agreed arrangement were reached.

It will be recalled that the United States and other governments have advocated a solution on these lines, and that the second resolution is based on the assumption of a solution of this kind.

The Israel Government believes that a positive response to these questions from all concerned will facilitate the early fulfillment of United Nations objectives as set forth in the United Nations resolutions. Israel is awaiting a response to the points which it has raised, and on their receipt it will continue its efforts to reach a solution of the problems dealt with in the General Assembly resolutions.

6 February 1957

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

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(Signed)  
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15 East 70th Street  
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This statement read to correspondents  
at 1.00 pm



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