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Middle East conflict 1958 - July 21

Press Release

Letter from Sec. Gen. to the Perm. Repr. of USSR to the U.N.

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CAUTION--ADVANCE RELEASE
Not to be published before
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Press Release SG/706
21 July 1958

TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD
TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Sir,

As Permanent Delegate of the USSR to the United Nations you transmitted to me yesterday copies of messages which Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, President of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had sent, on 19 July 1958, to Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, to Mr. Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, to Mr. Charles A. de Gaulle, President of the Council of Ministers of France, and to Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India. In the letter to me with which the documents were transmitted the Soviet Government expresses its hope that I, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, will take part in the suggested Conference of Heads of State.

I note that in the letters you propose that the recommendations which may emerge from the meeting should be submitted to the Security Council. The primary responsibility of the United Nations in this situation should, in my view, be given the fullest possible application in the arrangements for and in the conduct of a high-level meeting, were it to come about.

I have no reason to express, in this context, a personal opinion on any of the questions of substance raised in or by the letters. Nor is it for me to judge whether a high-level meeting would provide the best means of improving on the present disturbing situation in the region. I must leave the decision on that point to the heads of Governments approached. Were they to agree on the desirability of a meeting, with the participation of the Secretary-General, in accordance

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with the view expressed above, I would consider it to be within my rights and duties to accept and would gladly do so.

I would be grateful if you would transmit this reply to Mr. N.S. Khrushchev, President of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold

His Excellency,
Mr. A. A. Sobolev,
Permanent Representative of
the USSR to the United Nations,
Permanent Mission of the USSR
to the United Nations,
680 Park Avenue,
New York, New York

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