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Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

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Dixon, Pierson (Perm. Represent. of U.K.
to the U.N.)

- 2 letters from D.H.

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Sir Pierson Dixon

... I now turn briefly to another point, a point of practical urgency. The Technicians which have been introduced with the Anglo-French forces are equipped to tackle the task of clearing the obstructions in the Suez Canal and its approaches. We are prepared to put them forthwith under the command of a United Nations technical officer for this purpose. This, of course, would be in no sense a military operation, but an essential task undertaken by technicians in the interest of world shipping and trade. We in no sense make this a condition of our acceptance of the plan for the international force, but it seems to us only reasonable that we should undertake this task, as no one else at present is in a position to do so.

At the same time, we feel that energetic steps should be taken by the United Nations to bring about new and constructive solutions of the basic problems of the Middle East. With this in view, Her Majesty's Government has suggested to the Assembly, as is already known, that an early meeting of the Security Council should be held at the Ministerial level in order to work out an international settlement which would be likely to ensure, together with the means to enforce it

..... Her Majesty's Government stands ready to enter into discussions with the appropriate authorities regarding all questions involved in the transfer of responsibilities to the international force.....

8 November 1956

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I have now received a reply to my question to the Danish Government as to whether it would assist in finding arrangements for clearing the obstructions in the Suez Canal. A copy of the reply is attached.

As you will see from the letter, the Danish Salvage Company "Switzer" has already negotiated concerning this very task with the British Admiralty and does not consider that it can enter into a contract with the United Nations without the acceptance by the Admiralty of a transfer of its contract to the United Nations.

Referring to your statement in the General Assembly yesterday concerning the willingness of your Government to place the resources you had intended to use for this purpose under the United Nations, I would ask you to take the matter up with Her Majesty's Government in order to obtain their acceptance of the transfer of the Admiralty contract with "Switzer" to the United Nations.

Very sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold

His Excellency
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