

**Middle East - Suez story No
27-32: Middle East - Suez
story No 27-32 - 54**

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38.

Suez story - 31

29 Nov. 56

Interoffice memorandum from Col. Katelin
to D.H.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General

Date: 29 November 1956FROM: A. G. Katzin *AK*

FILE NO.: _____

SENDER'S TELEPHONE EXTENSION: 2432CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT: Suez Canal Clearance

1. Additional equipment which Salvors have advised today, will supplement that reflected in my memo to you of 27 November is as follows:

<u>To arrive December 18th-20th</u>	-	1 tug to work with floating sheerlegs
<u>To arrive December 27th</u>	-	1 Belgian salvage vessel 2 tugs to work with floating sheerlegs
<u>To arrive January 5th</u>	-	2 lifting ships - 750 lifting tons ea. 1 tug

In addition to the above, it is still hoped to be able to report additional equipment to arrive by December 14th from Italian and Greek sources, at present being checked upon.

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2. A revised summary table incorporating these additions which replaces the summary tabled attached to my memo of 27 November, is attached.

As a matter of interest, the U.N. equipment en route and scheduled to be in situ at Port Said between the 14th - 20th December will consist of only one salvage vessel less than equivalent U.K. resources in Port Said at the end of November and will compare reasonably in number with other types of salvage craft in situ from U.K. resources at that date. It is hoped, therefore, that the U.N. organization will be able to operate as effectively as has the British/French organization up to this date. However, the additional equipment dispatched by the U.K. for arrival between 10 December and early January will be considerably in excess of U.N. available resources as scheduled to date, but which will be supplemented by additions as quickly as is practicable.

SALVAGE EQUIPMENT ARRIVING AT SUEZ CANAL

<u>December 14</u>	:	<u>December 18-20</u>	:	<u>December 27</u>
<u>At Port Said</u>	:	<u>Port Said</u>	:	<u>Port Said</u>
2 salvage vessels	:	3 salvage vessels	:	1 tug
2 tugs	:	1 tug	:	1 200-ton sheer-
2 lifting craft	:	1 200-ton sheerlegs	:	legs
60-100 personnel to man	:		:	40-60 personnel
available vessels	:	14 camels each 100 tons	:	to man
already on spot	:	lifting capacity	:	available
	:		:	vessels al-
Still checking on	:	1 tug to work with	:	ready on the
Italian and Greek	:	floating sheerlegs	:	spot.
equipment to arrive	:		:	
on the 14th. First	:		:	1 Belgian salvage
reports not satisfac-	:		:	vessel
tory.	:		:	
	:		:	2 tugs to work
<u>At Suez</u>	:		:	with floating
	:		:	sheerlegs
1 salvage vessel	:		:	
1 tug	:		:	
1 30-ton floating crane	:		:	
	:		:	<u>January 5</u>
	:		:	<u>At Port Said</u>
	:		:	2 lifting ships -
	:		:	750 lifting
	:		:	tons each.
	:		:	1 tug

37

To: Brouncker
Dix

after approval by Fawzi.

Later published by Selwyn
Lloyd in Parliament.

There has been no official statement from the Egyptian Government that Egypt is in a state of war with France and the United Kingdom. Egypt has repeatedly reaffirmed its intention to implement freedom of passage as established in the 1888 Convention. There is therefore nothing that should cause us to believe that Egypt, after a withdrawal of the French and British forces, would intervene with British and French shipping through the Canal in violation of its undertakings under the Convention. Certainly, there would be no justification for such interference. The Secretary-General, who has had an opportunity to discuss these various matters in detail with the Government of Egypt, has assured me that this represents also his understanding of the situation.

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