

Middle East - Suez  
story No 27-32:  
Middle East - Suez  
story No 27-32 -  
66

*HS L 179:114*



National Library  
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

L 179:114

Middle East / Suez story - Nr. 32

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

30 Nov. 56 - 21 May 57

Dag Hammar skjöld's samml.

Middle East / Suez story - 32

30 Nov. 56 - 13 Jan. 57

Fawzi, Mahmoud (Foreign Minister of Egypt)

- 2 letters to O.H., 1 encl.
- 1 memo. from O.H.
- 2 draft letters from O.H.



EGYPTIAN MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 56.

Dear Dag,

I am enclosing a tentative draft of what I intend to submit to the G. A. concerning damages to Egypt. It is also my intention to ask - perhaps through one of the delegations - that the Secretary General inform the Assembly, before recess, on two points: a) withdrawal and b) Israeli actions in Sinai against persons, installations and property. (I may add to that a similar enquiry concerning French and British acts of violence in Port Said) and the declared position of Israel relating to the Gaza strip. I shall be at the U.N. all afternoon today and would appreciate any comment you may care to make. Meanwhile, I send you my cordial greetings.

Mahmoud

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, '56

Dear Dag,

President Hasser now wishes me to stay a while longer here. This coincides with one of the two alternatives of which I was thinking. I may therefore be staying until about mid January.

I have in various ways called the attention of Washington to the unnecessary difficulties which have cropped up since yesterday. Washington might be of some help in this regard.

It does not seem I shall attend this evening's meeting. I shall, therefore, see you on another occasion. Meanwhile, I wish you well.

M. Javzi

COPY

13 January 1957

(given to Dr. Fawzi 13 Jan'57)

The formula that had been reached during the last days of December between Mr. Katzin, General Wheeler, and Colonel Younis, and later confirmed in the conversation between President Nasser and Mr. Cordier, represented a common sense approach to the utilization of British-French ships in Port Said Harbour and the exclusive use of the UN salvor craft South of Port Said. The schedule of work of the ships to be used in Port Said Harbour was carefully established and the phase-out of ships during the month of January was determined and agreed to on the basis of that schedule. The original reservation by Colonel Younis as to the use of the Uplifter and the Dispenser was understood by these arrangements to have been withdrawn. The letter from Mr. Katzin to the Secretary-General setting out this agreement was, with the concurrence of Mr. Younis, sent forward to the Secretary-General.

On the basis of this understanding, the pending question of the use of six ships without crews down the Canal no longer existed. The two larger ships, the Fort Duquesne and the Darlymple left Port Said on 30 December and 5 January respectively, and the Barnstone, having completed its assigned work, departed nearly a week ago.

A review of the technical reports indicates that the programme of work is being carried out in accordance with the schedules and that both in terms of the work to be completed and in terms of the assurances of the United Nations that the agreement would be adhered to rigidly, the ships will depart in accordance with the schedule agreed to on 30 December.

The question of departures from the schedule and the phase-out of vessels is therefore far less a technical question than one possessing serious implications regarding the adhering to understandings and agreements on the part of all parties. The cooperation that has existed thus far and which has resulted in the actual effective beginning of the clearance of the Canal has also positive repercussions which reflect favourably upon the achievement of other goals which are in the common interest of the Government of Egypt and of the United Nations. The continuation of this cooperation, unimpaired by minor differences over schedules, is certain to bring further benefits to both parties.

The minor differences in dates as between the agreement on the one side and the suggested phasing-out of ships at an earlier date, amounts in the schedule of certain ships to about a week. Therefore, it would seem that with the very weighty advantages accruing to both parties from a strict adherence to the agreement, we would be led to the logical conclusion that the agreement should, in fact, be solemnly adhered to.

On this basis the Secretary-General has the strong conviction that minor differences over schedules should not be allowed to arise in our mutual task and that the agreement, as a matter of general principle, should be adhered to.

C O P Y

Draft

30 November 1956

(was handed to Loutfi on 1 Dec. '56)

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the request of the Government of Egypt for assistance of the United Nations in arrangements for clearing of the Suez Canal.

In accordance with the authority which has been granted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly, and on the basis of preliminary exploration and negotiation, I am in a position to advise you that the United Nations would be prepared to undertake the task of clearance of the Canal as assistance to the Government of Egypt. The General plan for this assistance would be elaborated in consultation with the Government of Egypt and, when approved by the Government, implemented under the instructions of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General would be authorized by the Government of Egypt to carry out the task as a matter of priority as effectively and expeditiously as practicable with freedom for him to use the equipment available which he finds necessary for the operation.

It is envisaged that the United Nations would conduct the clearance operation through contractual arrangements with private firms which would have the primary responsibility for the work under the direction and control of the Secretary-General and his special representative. Such sub-contractual arrangements as may have to be entered into by the prime contractors in order to expedite the work would be subject to the approval of the Secretary-General.

The undertaking would be regarded as a United Nations enterprise and its personnel would be under obligation to discharge their functions and regulate their conduct solely in the interests of the United Nations. In keeping with the United Nations responsibilities, the vessels would fly the flag of the United Nations in place of their national flags.

(To Dr. Fawzi)

As the Government of Egypt has requested that the clearance of the Canal be completed with the utmost speed and effectiveness, the United Nations will give the highest priority to this objective with the understanding that it would not incur responsibility for possible damage that may result from such activities as it considers necessary to speed the clearance of the Canal. It would also be understood that the United Nations would retain the rights of a salvor in respect of vessels or property salvaged in the course of the clearance operation.

The United Nations will, of course, keep the Government of Egypt fully informed of the progress of the operations and the Government will, I am sure, render all such assistance as may be required by the United Nations for this task.

If the points set forth in this letter are acceptable to the Government of Egypt, this letter and the reply of the Government will be considered as constituting an agreement between Egypt and the United Nations.

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

C O P Y

(Text cabled by the Foreign Minister to Cairo. It incorporates amendment suggested by Secretary-General on 8 December 1956).

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT

9 December 1956

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the request of the Government of Egypt for assistance of the United Nations in arrangements for clearing of the Suez Canal.

In accordance with the authority which has been granted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly, and on the basis of preliminary exploration and negotiation, I am in a position to advise you that the United Nations would be prepared to assist the Government of Egypt by undertaking the operation necessary for the speedy clearance of the Canal. The general plan for this assistance would be elaborated in consultation with the Government of Egypt and, when approved by the Government, implemented under the instructions of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General would be authorized by the Government of Egypt to carry out the task as a matter of priority as effectively and expeditiously as practicable with freedom for him to use the equipment available which he finds necessary for the operation.

It is envisaged that the United Nations would conduct the clearance operation through contractual arrangements with private firms which would have the primary responsibility for the work under the direction and control of the Secretary-General and his special representative. Such sub-contractual arrangements as may have to be entered into by the prime contractors in order to expedite the work, would be subject to the approval of the Secretary-General.

The undertaking would be regarded as a United Nations enterprise and its personnel would be under obligation to discharge their functions and regulate their conduct solely in the interests of the United Nations. In keeping with the United Nations responsibilities, the vessels would fly the flag of the United Nations in place of their national flags.

As the Government of Egypt has requested that the clearance of the Canal be completed with the utmost speed and effectiveness, the United Nations will give the highest priority to this objective with the understanding that it would not incur responsibility for possible

/ . . .

damage that may result from such activities as it considers necessary to speed the clearance of the Canal. It would also be understood that the United Nations would retain the rights of a salvor in respect of vessels or property salvaged in the course of the clearance operation.

The United Nations will, of course, keep the Government of Egypt fully informed of the progress of the operations and the Government will, I am sure, render all such assistance as may be required by the United Nations for this task.

If the points set forth in this letter are acceptable to the Government of Egypt, this letter and the reply of the Government will be considered as constituting an agreement between Egypt and the United Nations.

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General