

**Middle East - Suez story No
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story No 27-32 - 69**

HS L 179:114



Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

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5-19 Dec. 56

Norstad, Lauris (General, Allied Powers Europe
Supreme Commander)

- 2 letters from D.H.
- 1 letter to D.H.

5 December 1956

Dear General Norstad,

You will probably be aware that I have appointed the firms of A/S Em. Z. Svitzers Ejergnings-Entreprise of Copenhagen and L. Smit en Co.'s Internationals Sleepdienst, Rotterdam, Westplein 5, to supervise the technical management of the operation with which the United Nations is charged in connection with the clearance of the Suez Canal. This consortium will also provide some of the salvage vessels required for this purpose. Our demands on these two companies have necessitated a major dislocation of their existing operations and of their forward commitments over the next few months.

Among the lifting vessels essential to the canal clearance operation are the ODIN and THOR, belonging to the Em. Z. Svitzers Ejergnings-Entreprise of Copenhagen, which were to be used under charter to NATO, through the Danish Ministry of Defense, to lay out two pipe lines in Danish waters. Svitzers have advised us that if these vessels are not released by us by April next the work to which they are committed to you, whilst possible of execution by them, will nevertheless be considerably slowed down. It is our hope that it will be possible for us to release the vessels by that time but it would be helpful if we could ask your indulgence, without prejudice to Svitzers' contract with you, to their continued use in the Suez Canal beyond that date if circumstances then dictated that such a course was essential.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-GeneralGeneral Lauris Norstad
Supreme Allied Commander Europe
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe
Marly-le-Roy, France

COPY

19 December 1956

Dear General Norstad,

I thank you very much indeed for your letter of 17 December with reference to the employment by the United Nations in the Suez Canal of the vessels of the firm A/S Em. Z. Svitzers Bjergnings-Entreprise of Copenhagen.

I am most grateful to you for your kind understanding of my difficulties and for your willingness to accept, if necessary, some delay in the release of these vessels by the United Nations for use on the NATO project in the waters of Denmark. You may be assured that I in my turn will do everything in my power to make possible the release of these vessels in time to meet the essential need which you describe. I shall keep you fully informed of developments in this direction.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

General Lauris Norstad
Supreme Commander
Allied Powers Europe
NATO
Paris, France.

COPY

Allied Powers Europe
Supreme Commander

December 17, 1956

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld:

I would refer to your letter of 5 December 1956 regarding the employment of the vessels of the firm A/S Em. Z. Svitzers Bjergrnings-Entreprise of Copenhagen.

In response to your request I feel I must agree that the vessels in question may be retained beyond April 1957, should their services in connection with the clearing of the Suez Canal prove to be essential beyond that date.

I have discussed this subject with Lord Ismay, Secretary-General of NATO Council and have approached the Danish authorities on this question. The contract for the projects in Denmark was arranged by the Danish authorities who have stated that they are prepared to accept, if necessary, a delay in the completion of the projects by Svitzers within the contract period due to the retention of the vessels in the Suez Canal area. However, in this connection Lord Ismay and I urgently hope that these vessels can be sent back for use in the summer of 1957 at the latest in order that the pipeline project may be completed before autumn, when weather conditions would prevent further work until the following spring. If it becomes necessary to pursue the project without the use of these vessels, questions of compensation of considerable magnitude would arise.

I do hope, however, that the operations in the Suez Canal will proceed according to plan and that no undue delay in the execution of them will occur. You will appreciate that I am most anxious that the Danish authorities should not be held up in the construction of the two pipelines which are among the facilities essential to the defense of Allied Command Europe.

Sincerely yours,

Lauris Norstad
General USAF

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General
United Nations,
New York, New York.