

**Middle East conflict -  
correspondence with  
participating countries:  
Middle ...**

*HS L 179:107*



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Dag Hammarskiöld's saml.

Middle East / Australia

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17 Jan. 57

Spender, Percy (Chairman of the Australian  
Delegation to the Gen. Assembly)

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

L 179: 107

FI 323/3(10)

17 January 1957

Dear Sir Percy,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 17 January 1957 in which you inform me that the Government of Australia is prepared to make an advance of \$1,000,000 in convertible currency toward the initial expenses incurred by the United Nations in clearing the Suez Canal.

Your Government's action in this matter is greatly appreciated and note has been taken of the basis and understanding on which it is prepared to make the advance.

I wish to inform you that I shall use my best efforts:

- (1) to obtain assurances that negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations will be pursued rapidly for an overall agreement on the Suez Canal problem, having regard for progress previously made;
- (2) to work out a definitive plan for the financing of the total cost of rehabilitation of the canal which will include provision for repayment of the interim advances to the Governments concerned.

I wish particularly to assure you that I am using my best efforts to ensure attainment of the objectives set forth in the last paragraph of your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General

Sir Percy Spender  
Chairman of the Australian Delegation  
to the General Assembly  
Australian Mission to the United Nations  
4510 Empire State Building  
New York 1, N.Y.

17th January, 1957.

Letter from  
Australia

My dear Secretary-General,

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Australia is prepared to make an advance of \$1,000,000 in convertible currency towards the initial expenses incurred by the United Nations in clearing the Suez Canal.

This advance is a loan to the United Nations to help the Secretary-General to meet immediate commitments to contractors who are already engaged in Canal clearance, and is to be repaid by the United Nations. It does not in itself commit the Government of Australia to any further advances. Such loan shall not carry any implications that Australia accepts any obligation to share in the final allocation of the cost of making good the damage done by Egypt to the Canal. However, in the event of any Australian contribution being made to the final and overall cost of clearing and rehabilitating the Canal, this present loan will be offset to the extent necessary.

This loan is made on our understanding that:-

- (a) negotiations for a Suez Canal settlement will be undertaken without delay with the United Kingdom, France and Egypt, and
- (b) the provisions of the Constantinople Convention of 1888, particularly those relating to the freedom of passage to all countries without discrimination, will be strictly observed when the Canal is cleared, and that assurances shall meanwhile be given to this effect.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Australian Delegation  
to the General Assembly

*Sir Percy Spender*

The Secretary-General,  
United Nations Headquarters,  
New York, N.Y.