

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

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Middle East / Finland

1956-57

Gripenberg, George de (Perm. Represent. of
Finland to the U.N.)

- 2 letters from D.H.

- 2 letters to D.H.

L 179 = 107

14 May 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 7 May and to thank you and your Government for the decision to put at the disposal of the United Nations Emergency Force a new Finnish contingent of some 250 troops for a further period of six months. I note also that your Government is not in a position to make troops available to the Force at the conclusion of the service of the second contingent.

In connection with the financial undertakings mentioned in your letter, I wish to repeat the assurance that I shall present to the General Assembly either at the twelfth session or at an earlier meeting, if the Assembly is reconvened, a proposal recommending compensation for the items listed in our conversation of 27 April on this matter.

You may recall that, in my letter of 18 March to you, I stated that it was outside the scope of the authority thus far granted to me by the General Assembly to give the assurance which you had requested in your letter of 14 March regarding the expenses mentioned in your letter of that date. I assured you that, in view of the prolongation of the service of your contingent in UNEF beyond that originally anticipated, I would place the question before the Assembly as the organ which alone is competent to determine whether another formula for more general distribution of the cost incurred in maintaining the Force might

His Excellency
Mr. George de Gripenberg
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations
41 East 50th Street
New York 22, New York

be adopted. The undertaking of this letter, covering the items discussed between us, represents a more precise definition of the scope of the recommendation I feel able to propose to the General Assembly.

As for the penultimate paragraph, which would presumably include, as a United Nations obligation, all of the salaries of the Finnish contingent at present attached to the Force, I find myself in a more difficult position. Your Government has, of course, the right to propose to the General Assembly that the United Nations assume this item of costs. For my part, I shall be willing to discuss this matter with representative non-participating Delegations prior to its consideration by the General Assembly.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

DRAFT

28 November 1956

Dear Ambassador de Gripenberg,

In a conversation this morning before his departure, I was informed by Foreign Minister Tjörngren that the response in Finland to the opportunity to volunteer for service in the United Nations Emergency Force was such that considerably more have volunteered than the 258 officers and men now scheduled to depart for Egypt on 10 December.

I would like it to be known to your Government that any number of Finnish troops would be appreciated in the Force, and that in fact it would be a very welcome and helpful development for the Force if the presently contemplated number of Finnish troops could be substantially augmented.

I am aware, of course, that in this matter the cost to your Government is a factor which must be taken into serious account, and that in the case of Finland an extraordinary outlay is involved, since the Finnish contingent is composed of individual volunteers. I also understand that the Comptroller of the United Nations has discussed with you ways and means of alleviating this difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

His Excellency
Ambassador George de Gripenberg,
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations,
Finland House,
41 East 50th Street,
New York 22, N.Y.

PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, N.Y., 10 December 1956.

No. 1318

My dear Secretary-General,

By a letter of the 28th of November last you were so good as to let me know that you would welcome a substantial increase of the number of Finnish troops scheduled to serve in the United Nations Emergency Force.

On account hereof I have the honour to inform you that I am now in receipt of a communication from my Government relative to this matter. They point out that they have given your letter their most careful consideration but that much to their regret they cannot see their way of augmenting the Finnish contingent in the Force.

I am to add that my Government have greatly appreciated your suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

G. A. Gripenberg
Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations.

*Sent to Banche
10 Dec '56, 5.45 pm*

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York, N.Y.

PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, May 7th, 1957.

No. 1272

Sir,

Upon instructions received and with reference to previous conversations and correspondence regarding the Finnish contingent in the United Nations Emergency Force, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency as follows:-

The Finnish Government have decided, as from June next and for a period of six months, to put at the disposal of the Force a contingent of some 250 troops in replacement of the Finnish unit at present serving in the UNEF.

My Government have taken this decision on the assumption that

1. the United Nations Emergency Force will not be used for any other purpose than those stated in the General Assembly's Resolutions of the 4. and 5. of November 1956;

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjöld, Esq.,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
New York, N.Y.

2. the Finnish contingent will not be stationed in any locality or territory without the permission of the State to which the locality or territory belongs;

3. in conformity with what I was told at the conference with Your Excellency on the 27 of April last in the Secretariat, the United Nations will refund all my Government's expenses for the establishment of this new Finnish contingent as well as for salaries, maintenance and transportation of the troops during their service in the Force.

It is further the understanding of my Government that the United Nations, in conformity with the General Assembly's Resolution of the 21st of December 1956, will refund to them all their expenses for the establishment, equipment and maintenance as well as salaries of the Finnish contingent at present attached to the UNEF.

Finally I have been instructed to inform Your Excellency that the Finnish Government would not find it possible after the beginning of December next to make troops available to the United Nations Emergency Force.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. Gripenberg

Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations