

Speeches, statements and press conference by Dag Hammarskjöld concerning Mi...

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Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

Middle East

8 Nov. 56

Transcript of D.H.'s press conference

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PRESS CONFERENCE

HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 1956

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I am sorry to have kept you waiting. But after all, the world is big and it sometimes takes some time to get texts transmitted. I have before me a letter which I consider as indicating a development and news of such significance that I wanted to tell you about it myself, as I did the other day. It is a letter sent by Mrs. Golda Meir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, to me today.

(At this point the Secretary-General read the text of the letter, see Press Release PM/3226.)

There are only two points I would like to draw to your attention so that there is no misunderstanding. The second half of the letter which I read to you brought again to attention certain hopes and demands of the Israeli Government. But you should note that these viewpoints are introduced in the letter after the declaration, that it is done without prejudice to the undertaking; that is to say, there is no condition in this second part of the letter.

As to the first part of the letter, I think it is self-explanatory. I would however indicate that when you read it, you should observe that the declaration of willingness to withdraw Israeli forces from Egypt is said to be "immediately upon the conclusion of satisfactory arrangements with the United Nations in connection with the emergency international force." I read this sentence as clearly implying acceptance of that United Nations force.

That, I think, is all for today. I would, however, like to point out that with this communication on the table, and what has happened on the steps in these negotiations, we have arrived at a point where a new phase should be possible, a new phase should begin.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary-General, how soon should the new force be arriving on the scene?

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I may have the pleasure of meeting you in this way again very shortly.

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