

# Speeches, statements and press conference by Dag Hammar skjöld concerning Mi...

*HS L 179:128*



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Middle East

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15 Dec. 56

text of statement (draft) by D.H. on  
Suez Canal clearing operation.

(Not issued)

NOT issued  
Draft

Various statements in the discussion about the Canal clearing operation, most recently by Lord Hailsham in Port Said, render it necessary for me to clarify the situation. Lt.Gen. Wheeler operates in continuous contact with Headquarters and under instructions from me. Those instructions are in strict conformity with the position of the General Assembly as set out in a report on the matter, which was approved by the Assembly with the concurrence also of the United Kingdom and France. According to this position the United Nations salvage operation would be based on resources from private firms in countries outside the conflict. Recourse to other resources, such as the Anglo/French salvage fleet was assumed to be sought only to the extent that there was a need to supplement the United Nations resources in that way. It is for the highly qualified experts, called in by the United Nations, and for General Wheeler, with his very wide experience in the field, to judge about those needs. In the debate in the General Assembly preceding the approval of the report, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd declared that the United Kingdom was ready to lend its resources to "work in any way wanted" by the United Nations in this task.

15 December 1956