

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

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Middle East

22 Feb. 57

Statement by D.H. in the 659th
plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

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Statement made by the Secretary-General in the 659th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, Friday, 22 February 1957

On February eleventh I submitted the report (A/3527), in pursuance of the resolution of the General Assembly of 2 February (A/RES/461).

Events since then have not called for a further report and I have presented none.

It is well-known, however, that discussions have been carried on outside this house in the continuing resolve to attain the goals defined in the several resolutions of the General Assembly. I have maintained close contact with these activities and have been kept well-informed on them. These serious efforts to break through the unfortunate impasse and to unlock the door to constructive endeavour are deserving of warm appreciation.

Insofar as United Nations activities and positions are concerned, developments in the interim have given no reason to revise any of the substance of the previous report. However, in the light of some subsequent discussions in which I have engaged, I may make the following statement in the nature of a supplement to that report.

"The Secretary-General states with confidence that it is

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the desire of the Government of Egypt that the take-over of Gaza from the military and civilian control of Israel - which, as has been the case, in the first instance would be exclusively by UNEF - will be orderly and safe, as it has been elsewhere. It may be added with equal confidence that the Government of Egypt, recognizing the present special problems and complexities of the Gaza area and the long-standing major responsibility of the United Nations there for the assistance of the Arab refugees, and having in mind also the objectives and obligations of the Armistice Agreement, has the willingness and readiness to make special and helpful arrangements with the United Nations and some of its auxiliary bodies, such as UNRWA and UNEF. For example, the arrangement for the use of UNEF in the area should ensure its deployment on the Armistice line at the Gaza Strip and the effective interposition of the Force between the armed forces of Egypt and Israel. Similarly, the assistance of the United Nations and its appropriate auxiliary bodies would be

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enrolled toward putting a definite end to all incursions and raids across the border from either side. Furthermore, with reference to the period of transition, such other arrangements with the United Nations may be made as will contribute towards safeguarding life and property in the area by providing efficient and effective police protection; as will guarantee good civilian administration; as will assure maximum assistance to the UN refugee programme; and as will protect and foster the economic development of the territory and its people."

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Division
United Nations, N.Y.

Press Release SG/563
22 February 1957

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD
BEFORE THE 659th PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 1957

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