

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

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Middle East

8 May 57

- D.H. to leave Geneva for Jerusalem
- Extracts of statements relevant to the consideration of an Egyptian administration in Gaza.

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Press Release SG/593
8 May 1957

SECRETARY-GENERAL TO LEAVE GENEVA FOR JERUSALEM

(The following was received here from the Information Service of the United Nations European Office in Geneva.)

The following announcement was made in Geneva at 1100 GMT (7:00 a.m. EDT) today:

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold will leave Geneva tonight for Jerusalem. He will be accompanied by Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, UN Under-Secretary; Claude de Kemoullaria, personal assistant to the Secretary-General; and William Ranallo, personal aide.

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EXTRACTS OF STATEMENTS RELEVANT TO THE CONSIDERATION
OF AN EGYPTIAN ADMINISTRATION
IN GAZA

1) The Secretary-General's Report 24 January (Document A/3512)

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(b) The use of military force by the United Nations other than that under Chapter VII of the Charter requires the consent of the States in which the Force is to operate. Moreover, such use must be undertaken and developed in a manner consistent with the principles mentioned under (a) above. It must, furthermore, be impartial, in the sense that it does not serve as a means to force settlement, in the interest of one party, of political conflicts or legal issues recognized as controversial.

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14. Deployment of UNF in Gaza, under the resolutions of the General Assembly, would have to be on the same basis as its deployment along the armistice line in the Sinai Peninsula. Any broader function for it in that area, in view of the terms of the Armistice Agreement and a recognized principle of international law, would require the consent of Egypt. A widening of the United Nations administrative responsibilities in the area, beyond its responsibilities for the refugees, would likewise have to be based on agreement with Egypt. It follows, therefore, that although the United Nations General Assembly would be entitled to recommend the establishment of a United Nations administration and to request negotiations in order to implement such an arrangement, it would lack authority in that recommendation, unilaterally, to require compliance.

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- 2) The Secretary-General's oral Report to the General Assembly, 22 February 1957.

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The Secretary-General states with confidence that it is 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...

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- 3) The Secretary-General's Report, 26 February (Document A/3563)

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Special Memorandum

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The Secretary-General in reply pointed out that his statement (quoted immediately above) obviously was made within the framework of the legal situation established by international agreement. He could neither detract from, nor annul any rights existing under the Armistice Agreement. His statement indicated practical arrangements, envisaged within the framework of Egyptian control of the territory as established by the Agreement, and could, therefore, not be understood as limiting Egyptian rights within the area under the terms of the Agreement.

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4) Extract from the statement by the Israeli Foreign Minister in the General Assembly, 1 March 1957.

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(a) That on its withdrawal the United Nations Forces will be deployed in Gaza and that the takeover of Gaza from the military and civilian control of Israel will be exclusively by the United Nations Emergency Force.

(b) It is further Israel's expectation that the United Nations will be the agency to be utilized for carrying out the functions enumerated by the Secretary-General, namely:

"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 United Nations refugee programme; and as will protect and foster the economic development of the territory and its people."

(c) It is further Israel's expectation that the aforementioned responsibility of the United Nations in the administration of Gaza will be maintained for a transitory period from the takeover until there is a peace settlement, to be sought as rapidly as possible, or a definitive agreement on the future of the Gaza strip.

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5) Ambassador Lodge's statement in the General Assembly, 1 March 1957.

(After quoting the Secretary-General's statement in the General Assembly, 22 February, Mr. Lodge said:)

It is the view of the United States that from a juridical standpoint the future of the Gaza Strip must, as the Secretary-General has said, be worked out within the framework of the Armistice Agreement.

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6) Dr. Fawzi's Statement in the General Assembly, 1 March 1957.

The Assembly has heard the statement made by the representative of Israel and the other statements made relating to Israel's withdrawal. We take it that the Assembly is unanimous in expecting full and honest implementation of its resolutions calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal by Israel. This position, which is the only position the Assembly could possibly take, remains intact and entire. Nothing said by anyone here or elsewhere could shake this fact or detract from its reality and its validity nor could it affect the fullness and the lawfulness of Egypt's rights and those of the Arab people of the Gaza strip.

7) Dr. Fawzi's Statement in the General Assembly, 4 March 1957.

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At our previous meeting I stated that the Assembly was unanimous in expecting full and honest implementation of its resolutions calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal by Israel. I continue to submit to the Assembly that this position -- which is the only position the Assembly can possibly take -- remains intact and entire. Nothing said by anyone here or elsewhere could shake this fact or detract from its reality and its validity, nor could it affect the fullness and the lawfulness of Egypt's rights and those of the Arab people of the Gaza Strip.

This has always been and remains the stand of my Government in perfect conformity with the stand taken by the General Assembly as a whole. Indeed, no Member of the United Nations, not even Israel, has come here and formally and officially stated that Israel's withdrawal should be anything but full, immediate and unconditional.

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