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Statement by D.H. (U.N. press release)

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Press Release SG/583
1 April 1957

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold today made the following statement:

It will have been noted from the communiqué on the UNEF Advisory Committee meeting of 28 March that the Committee reviewed the practical arrangements for the functioning of the UNEF with regard to Gaza that had been studied with the Egyptian Government and with the Commander of UNEF during the Secretary-General's visit to Cairo. The communiqué also stated that the Advisory Committee "noted with satisfaction the progress so far made."

At its next meeting, 29 March 1957, the Advisory Committee agreed that the Secretary-General should transmit the following statement to the Government of Egypt:

"The Advisory Committee notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's statement on the understanding reached with the Government of Egypt concerning the arrangements under which the United Nations Emergency Force would operate and which are established in accordance with the requirements of the Force as presented by the Commander. If, in practice, these arrangements were to prove insufficient or unsatisfactory, the Committee would have to revert to the issue and consider with the Secretary-General such further proposals as he might make or wish to make to the Government of Egypt in order to provide for satisfactory conditions for the functioning of the Force.

"However, the Committee hopes that the arrangements at present envisaged with Egypt, as they may by agreement be elaborated in practice, will prove satisfactory in the context of the continuance of the agreed stationing of the Force at the Armistice Demarcation Line as a deterrent to incursions and other disturbances. It was agreed that decisive significance attaches to the effective clarification to the population of Egypt's policy to prevent infiltration across the Demarcation Line, and it was noted that measures for the enforcement of this policy will be taken by the Government of Egypt and that

(more)

the United Nations Emergency Force will, as a matter of right, have the duty to assist in the enforcement."

It should be mentioned that the Government of Egypt has advised the Secretary-General that:

1. Egypt is making known effectively to the refugees and other inhabitants of the Strip that it is Egyptian policy to prevent infiltration across the Demarcation Line, and this will be re-emphasized from time to time, as necessary.

2. The Egyptian regulations against infiltration, which include penalties, are being again put into force. The role of UNEF in assisting in the prevention of infiltration will be made clearly known to the population of the Gaza Strip by the appropriate authorities.

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