

**Middle East - Suez story No
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Middle East / Suez story - Nr 35c

(as put together by Dag Hammarskjöld
and kept in his safe in his office, UN HQ)

April 1957 - October 1957

L 179: 115b

Dag Hammarskjölds samling

Middle East / Suez story

11 October 1957

Letter to Mahmoud Fawzi

L 179: 1156

11 October 1957

Dear Mahmoud,

We have made a preliminary study of the specifications proposed by Colonel Younis to cover the United Nations contribution to restoring the Canal under the terms of reference established by the General Assembly. While we do not, at first sight and subject to General Wheeler's comments, which are being sought, raise questions concerning the technical nature of the work which contractors would be required to perform, there are aspects of the proposed tender specifications which will not, in their present form, fall within the conditions which I find it possible to consider.

It has been my position from the outset, which had of course also been in line with Wheeler's own recommendations and discussions with Younis on the ground, that bids should be called for by and in the name of the Egyptian Canal Authority and that the United Nations remaining contribution to restoring the Canal to its full capacity would take the form of acceptance towards costs for outside dredging within limits which we believe to be appropriate in the light of what remained to be done at our phasing out as well as practical to the conditions presently obtaining. I proposed, as you know, a contribution towards a Canal Authority bare-boat charter not beyond six months irrespective of the actual duration of any contract which the Canal Authority might enter into.

Younis' proposal that the United Nations should itself hire under contract a dredger for a period of not less than six months and that all the working expenses, insurances and taxes, fuel, supplies, accessories and the like which obtain in the operation should be to the account and within the responsibility of the United Nations, is not, in the circumstances feasible. It would, on the other hand, of course be quite appropriate, as suggested by Younis, that the supervision of the work should be entirely carried out under the instructions of the Suez Canal Authority engineers but this would normally apply to an operation to which the contractor is bound within the terms of his contract to the Egyptian Canal Authority and not to the United Nations.

I would hope that the earliest possible attention could be given to these considerations. We shall, of course, transmit to you as well any further observations which Wheeler may have on this matter.

His Excellency,
Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
c/o Permanent Mission of Egypt to
the United Nations, New York.

11 October 1957

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Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
c/o Permanent Mission of Egypt to
the United Nations, New York.

Mr. Cordier and Col. Katzin suggested some changes.
This is the letter as they suggest.

11 October 1957

original
and copy
given to
base

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Very sincerely