

**Middle East - Suez story No
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HS L 179:116a



Dag Hammarskjölds saml.

Middle East / Suez story - 39

16 Feb. 57

D.H.'s message to E. Bartels, Administrator's
Office, Lancaster House, London
sent by D.H. to Omnipress, London

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: Omnipress, London
FROM: Secretary-General
DATE: 16 February 1957
NUMBER:

Please transmit to Mr. E. Bartels, Administrator's Office, Lancaster House, St. James, London Quote Dear Bartels

Re your letter 6 February, I have delayed reply in hope to be able to give you fuller information. However, only a most incomplete response is possible before 18th which has been indicated as date when reply was desirable. I comment in the following on various points your letter.

1. Payments of dues including safeguards against double payment. So far I have not been able to receive from US, UK, France, Norway the expected joint proposal as to arrangements. In these circumstances I have not found it useful to continue discussions with Egyptians for some time.

2. Discrimination and priorities. I have long ago informed main parties that initial Egyptian reaction was that priorities established by agreement among users was users business and that it was Egypt's intention to apply a rule of sub-quote first come first serve un-sub-quote with observance of Constantinople Convention. The question of form of payments of course is of significance also in this context; Egypt insists on sub-quote Non Discrimination un-sub-quote in payments.

3. Navigability of the Canal. As soon as reliable technical estimates

are presented by Wheeler, who fully appreciates urgency of matter, the data available as to date of safe navigability, depth, width, possible hazards will be released by the United Nations for general information. You will also be informed personally. Non-technical aspects of passage would be outside the intended scope of such a release.

4. Sufficient pilots and technical staff. Questions of agents etc. The information has in the main to be provided by Egyptian Authority. Request for information is in Wheeler's hands and observations from Egyptians are said to have been sent by pouch. I can only advise you that interim arrangements will be provided within the present United Nations technical operation to assure the availability of the limited number of supplementary operation craft necessary. Restoration of basic lighting and communications system is UN responsibility and the point will be covered in UN release. Question of agents obviously entirely outside our control. Very sincerely
Signed Dag Hammarskjold Unquote