

# Middle East conflict - Middle East Development Funds: Middle East conflict ...

*HS L 179:103c*



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Düsseldorf, 15 Feb. 1958

Letter to DH from Sir Humphrey Trevelyan

Letter to DH

L 179: 103c



Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

PERSONAL

February 15, 1958

*My dear Dag,*

Thank you so much for your letter of February 11. I agree with you that we must not let the difficulties discourage us too much. It may be that the present developments over the Arab Republic and the Arab Federation will help.

In the meantime, we have this Tunisian headache.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

Dusseldorf. February 15.

Dear Secretary General,

They took a great deal of trouble over my visit to Rome. I saw Signor Pella, met nearly all the senior Foreign Office officials and was given a dinner by the ministry at the Club. I had a few words with Signor Pella about Middle East development. Not only did he not seem to be in the least worried at the possibility that your ideas might cut across his Plan; but he gave the impression of being very lukewarm about his own Plan. Perhaps he has already found that that cat won't jump.

There were no surprises on the surcharge question. As a result of Government subsidies and indirect control, the Italians are in a position to dictate to a large section of their shipping industry, and they seem reasonably sound that if (but only if) most of the other pay and go on paying, their people will follow suit. But they entirely agree that we should not put the plan into effect until we are reasonably sure of success. They agree to the plan, and had one or two good suggestions on details. An Italian Bank could also have done it, but they are prepared to concede

that it is probably better to use the Bank of a country with less Canal traffic than Italy. I am not sure of the validity of that argument, but it will do for this purpose. I told them frankly that I thought of the Belgian Bank first. Actually, I should for rather use the Belgians, especially as they have close relations in Egypt with Yunos and El Emari and are excellent people to deal with.

I did not get anything of much value on political questions. I was given an exposition of the position in Somaliland by the head of the Somaliland office, but his outlook was limited to his immediate problems. They will give up much of their internal control after the elections, but will retain their formal position till the final date. They are already busy drafting Fomari's credentials to the Arab Union (getting in guide). The Egyptian line, they say, is to welcome the Hashemite Union. They are apparently not very interested (yet at any rate) in future arrangements for the Canal. They are more concerned about membership of the Economic Commission for Africa and would clearly like membership as a Mediterranean non-Colonial Power. The conception of Italy as the link between Europe and Africa of course looms large. I naturally did not raise Tunisia; but from what they said, it is clear that they are being very cautious

not to offend either party. Yamp Bougiba, (Ambassador in Name), had told them that his father knew perfectly well when he ~~said~~ said that he would accept United States good offices, that France would 'n't.

One might consider Feisal's and Huseni's Union as a powerful blow for Arab Republicanism. Two kings in one State are 'n't real kings any more. It seems to me that these changes reinforce the need for early progress on development, before the two kings get into an attitude of even more rigid opposition to each other.

I worked hard in 1949, against some American opposition, for a Iraqi Development Board with British and American technical help. It has worked well. I hope we can pull it off on an inter-Arab scale.

I shall not usually stay in British Embassies (particularly in Baghdad, although the nights are old friends), but I have accepted the invitation of the British Ambassador in Oslo, as there is no political heat involved there and I want a quiet day to bring my papers up to date after an active week which included a brief bout of food-poisoning. However, as the aircraft is delayed, I probably shan't get there - tonight at any rate.

Good luck to you in your strenuous Tunisian activities.

Yours, Humphrey.

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