

**Middle East - Suez story No
7-14: Middle East - Suez
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Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

Middle East / Suez story - 12

18 - 24 May 56

Smith, Georg Ivan (U.N. London Inform.
Centre)

- 2 letters to D.M.

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London Information Centre.

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24th May, 1956.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

In case you have not already seen the text of Eytan's broadcast of May 13th I attach a copy taken from the BBC's Monitoring Report, (the report has a wide circulation in the Foreign Office, through embassies and among serious students of international affairs at Chatham House or in press circles.)

The Jewish Observer also carried it in full, and Kimche told me yesterday that he is getting encouraging reports from both sides which suggest that the chain of actions and reactions is beginning to work in the right direction.

Two examples quoted in his paper are also attached. One is a report on the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Damascus and the other is the story by an Egyptian journalist, who was given a visa to visit Israel and had his report passed by the Cairo censor. Kimche regards it as very significant that such a story has been passed for publication and agrees that nothing of this kind has appeared in the Cairo press since the troubles began.

On account of these reports and others coming in from the Middle East Kimche's Editorial (the last enclosure) again comes out with solid and sensible comment about the changed situation in the Middle East in consequence of your visit.

Incidentally Eytan left Israel a few days ago to visit Moscow, Warsaw and Prague.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George' followed by a stylized flourish.

George Ivan Smith
Director.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

UNITED NATIONS



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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

London Information Centre,
14/15 Stratford Place,
London, W. 1.

May 18th, 1956.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

A number of stories in the attached copy of the JEWISH OBSERVER are of interest.

On my return to London I gave Jon Kinche no details at all but instead I tried to give him perspective by stressing that your Report clarifies (a) the legal responsibility of the parties; (b) their relationship and recourse to the Security Council on questions that are clearly within the Armistice Agreement as well as questions which collaterally affect tension in the area.

You will see from his presentation of your Report (page 5) that he has a sharp ear.

His editorial on page 8 is very interesting. He told me this morning that he believes that it will be very well received by officials in Israel. That remark had particular significance for ~~me~~ when it was followed by his saying "I have just received a personal letter from Ben Gurion in which he says that Hammarskjold made a greater impression on him than anybody has in many years".

The ECONOMIST and the BBC had, at an earlier stage, fallen for the melodramatic treatment of the Nahal Oz incident that occurred after the cease fire. I talked privately to the two Editors about this. The points were very well taken because this was the day on which the Israeli Foreign Ministry admitted that it wrongly accused the Egyptians of having violated the frontier on May 7th at Nirim.

The most intriguing story in these enclosures is on page 2. It reports Fawzi's meeting with Ambassadors of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and implies that Hussein's flight to Beirut resulted from the line taken by Fawzi.

Kinche now has an open mind about this and admits that Hussein's visit to Beirut, although prompted by Fawzi's suggestions, might involve some subtle form of support for the general idea and not necessarily a dramatic opposition to it.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. I. Smith".

George Ivan Smith
Director.