

**Middle East conflict -
Lebanon. Correspondence,
statements, resolutions:
Mi...**

HS L 179:104



National Library
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjölds samml.

L 179:104

Middle East conflict [1958] - July 20

Prime Minister Nehru's reply to message received from

- Premier Khrushchev for a meeting of Heads of Governments

Copy of the text of Prime Minister Nehru's reply to message received from Premier Khrushchev for a meeting of Heads of Governments.

handed to SG HQ
Call 8 p.m.
20 July '58

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

I have just received the text of the letter you have addressed to me. In view of the urgency and vital importance of the contents of your letter, I am immediately sending this reply.

2. I am grateful to you for the letter you have sent. I entirely agree with you that we are living through one of most serious crises in the history of mankind and that, at this moment of peril, it is the duty of Governments as well as others to approach these questions with wisdom and calmness, and not to take any action which might worsen this situation and provoke a world conflagration. Whatever the views of Governments may be in regard to other matters, reason and even self-interest drive to the conclusion that the maintenance of peace is essential for all of us and that war must be avoided. This means that the approach to this and like questions must not be through military strength and ~~force~~, but by calm negotiation and the firm determination that peace must be maintained.

rearmament

3. You are aware, Mr. Prime Minister, of our firm conviction that armed intervention by a foreign power in any country is most undesirable and that foreign troops should be withdrawn from the countries where they have entered. This is not only in accordance with justice and the freedom of the countries concerned, but also avoids international complications which may lead to a catastrophe. Therefore we have urged the Governments of USA and Great Britain to withdraw their forces from the Lebanon and Jordan.

4. We would welcome a peaceful approach by negotiations through the U.N. or its Security Council or otherwise, with a view to helping the U.N. to take steps to end the conflict in the Near and Middle East region. We are always prepared to offer our services for this purpose whenever they are asked for and needed.

5. I am grateful to you for your kind invitation to India to join in the Conference of the Heads of Governments suggested by you. If there is agreement about the holding of such a conference, it should not be difficult to fix a suitable venue and an early date. We shall be glad to offer our services to it in the cause of peace, if they are needed.

6. I understand that the Conference suggested by you is different and separate from the proposal for a high level or summit conference which has been under discussion for some time. The present proposal is made for the limited purpose dealing with the critical situation that has arisen in the Middle East region.

With warm regards,

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.
