

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

HS L 179:105a



National Library
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

Middle East conflict [1958] - August 8

Sec. Gen. — to Gamal Abdel Nasser (President of U.A.R.)

L 179: 1054

8 August 1958

Mr. President,

As we are now reaching a new stage in the development which I had the privilege of discussing with you during my short visit in Cairo, I would like to approach you with a few personal observations.

When you receive this message, you will have learned of my effort at the beginning of the emergency session of the General Assembly to channel the discussions into such lines as for long have been engaging your attention and on which I have cooperated closely with Dr. Fawzi. I have a fair hope that we may get off to a new start, closing a chapter in history in which, again, within the United Nations we have been able to register important, although for natural reasons never publicised support of our efforts also from you. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your response to my recent appeals.

I am certain that you share my view that our renewed efforts to work in a constructive direction, and to assist toward a state of peace and progress in the Arab world, will require the full and attentive support of those who can influence the political atmosphere. This is of significance especially as regards the wounds inflicted by unfortunate recent events. These wounds have got a good chance of healing after the election in Lebanon. You will appreciate our wish to give, through our assistance, the newly elected President the best possible chance to straighten things out.

In the last-mentioned respect, the attitudes within opposition groups in Lebanon and the actions of individuals operating within the ranks of those groups, are of a special significance. Whatever elements from outside Lebanon might have been drawn into the picture, certainly, they now should get out of it. Their continued presence and their possible actions would represent a disturbing element, contrary to the best interest of all concerned. You will excuse me in this context if, in an attempt to be more specific, I base myself on a general impression which, of course, may be mistaken. With this reservation I wish to add that I have in mind especially such specialists - I guess only a few - in bombing, mining and similar activities, who may be found, for example, in the Basta quarter, although not of Lebanese nationality. A quick withdrawal of such elements from the area would seem strongly indicated.

His Excellency,
Gamal Abdel Nasser,
President of the United Arab Republic,
Cairo, Egypt.

./.

I have the impression that, following also our conversation, you have, indirectly, already used your influence to calm down reactions in the opposition groups. In view of the policies in Lebanon which are now emerging, and in view of the overriding interest for all, and for the Arab world in particular, to get over the crisis and pave the road toward such a policy as would provide for a better future along the lines to which I venture to refer in the General Assembly, I feel convinced that you will continue to exert such an influence and that you may even wish to strengthen your contribution in that respect.

I am looking forward with great satisfaction to the opportunity to discuss present possibilities with Dr. Fawzi. My renewed personal contact with him here in New York will help me to explain more fully to you how I think we can be of real assistance. However, the expression of my views in this letter, which are concerned with preliminaries to our further efforts, need not wait for the joint study of our way ahead in which I will be happy to engage with Dr. Fawzi, and through him with you.

In due time I hope to be able, again, to take advantage of a visit to Cairo for a personal exchange of views with you. In the meanwhile, I ask you, Mr. President, to receive my sincere and respectful regards.

Dag Hammarskjöld.