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15-18: Middle East - Suez  
story No 15-18 - 19**

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Letter from Representatives of France  
and U.K. to the President of Secco.



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/3645  
12 September 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and from the French Government, we have the honour to address you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, with regard to the situation created by the action of the Egyptian Government in attempting unilaterally to bring to an end the system of international operation of the Suez Canal which was confirmed and completed by the Suez Canal Convention of 1888.

2. Since the action of the Egyptian Government created a situation which might endanger the free and open passage of shipping through the Canal without distinction of flag as laid down in the above-mentioned Convention, a conference was called in London on August 16, 1956. Of the twenty-two States attending that conference, eighteen, representing between them over ninety per cent of the user interest in the Canal, put forward proposals to the Egyptian Government for the future operation of the Canal. The Egyptian Government have, however, refused to negotiate on the basis of the above-mentioned proposals which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government and of the French Government, offer means for a just and equitable solution. Her Majesty's Government and the French Government consider that this refusal is an aggravation of the situation which, if allowed to continue, would constitute a manifest danger to peace and security.

3. We have the honour to request that the contents of this letter be brought to the notice of the members of the Security Council.

We have the honour to be etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

The Permanent Representative of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
to the United Nations

(Signed) Louis de Guiringaud

The Acting Permanent Representative  
of France to the United Nations

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