

**Middle East - Suez story No
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18 Sept. 56

Cornut - Gentile, B. (Perun Represent. of France
to the U.N.)

- 1 letter to U.N. Missions.

FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The following is the text of a letter which has today been sent to United Nations Missions by H.E. M. B. CORNUT-GENTILLE Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations.

French Delegation to
the United Nations,
New York, September 18, 1956

My dear Colleague,

In a letter that the Egyptian Delegation to the United Nations has circulated to various Delegations to the United Nations it is stated that the Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez ordered the non-Egyptian employees to quit their work before the 15th of September and that the Governments of France and the United Kingdom endorsed such measures.

It is hardly necessary to underline that such declarations are inaccurate and do not correspond in any way to the true facts.

Neither the French Government nor the British Government ever incited the employees of the Compagnie du Canal Maritime, in any way, direct or indirect, to leave their posts, nor did they exercise any pressure on the latter to that effect. On the contrary, the French Government as well as the Company, made every effort to delay as long as possible the departure of the employees who had asked to be repatriated after the decision taken by the Egyptian Government on July 26th, 1956, forbidding them, under threats of imprisonment, to cease work, under whatever circumstances.

It is clear that the actual situation is the responsibility of the Egyptian Government.

Yours sincerely,

Signed : B. CORNUT-GENTILLE

Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations