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## QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1 TO 10 NOVEMBER 1956

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Members of the General Assembly the text of two communications which he has received from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of France (see A and B below), and to call the attention of Members to an instruction issued by him to the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force (see C below).

A. Note verbale dated 3 December 1956 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 3 December 1956

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to make the following communication on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Her Majesty's Government and the French Government note that:

(a) An effective United Nations force is now arriving in Egypt charged with the tasks assigned to it in the Assembly resolutions of 2, 5 and 7 November.

(b) The Secretary-General accepts the responsibility for organizing the task of clearing the Canal as expeditiously as possible.

(c) In accordance with the General Assembly resolution of 2 November free and secure transit will be re-established through the Canal when it is clear.

(d) The Secretary-General will promote as quickly as possible negotiations with regard to the future regime of the Canal on the basis of the six requirements set out in the Security Council resolution of 13 October.<sup>1/</sup>

Her Majesty's Government and the French Government confirm their decision to continue the withdrawal of their forces now in the Port Said area without delay.

They have accordingly instructed the Allied Commander, General Keightley, to seek agreement with the United Nations Commander, General Burns, on a time-table for the complete withdrawal, taking account of the military and practical questions involved. This timetable should be reported as quickly as possible to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In preparing these arrangements the Allied Commander will ensure:

(a) that the embarkations of personnel or material shall be carried out in an efficient and orderly manner;

(b) That proper regard will be had to the maintenance of public security in the area now under Allied control;

(c) That the United Nations Commander should make himself responsible for the safety of any French and British salvage resources left at the disposition of the United Nations salvage organization.

In communicating these conclusions Her Majesty's Government and the French Government recall the strong representations they have made regarding the treatment of their nationals in Egypt. They draw attention to the humane treatment accorded to Egyptian nationals in the United Kingdom and France. They feel entitled to demand that the position of British and French nationals in Egypt should be fully guaranteed.

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<sup>1/</sup> S/3675.

B. Note verbale dated 3 December 1956 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of France has the honour to make the following communication to the Secretary-General on behalf of his Government:

1. The Governments of France and the United Kingdom note that:

(a) An effective International Force is now arriving in Egypt charged with the tasks assigned to it in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly of 2, 5 and 7 November.

(b) The Secretary-General accepts the responsibility for organizing the task of clearing the Suez Canal as expeditiously as possible.

(c) In accordance with the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 2 November, free and secure transit will be re-established through the Canal when it is clear.

(d) The Secretary-General will promote as quickly as possible negotiations with regard to the future regime of the Canal on the basis of the six principles set out in the Security Council resolution of 13 October.

2. The Governments of France and the United Kingdom confirm their decision to continue the withdrawal of their forces in the Port Said area without delay.

3. They have accordingly instructed the Allied Commander, General Keightley, to seek agreement with the United Nations Commander, General Burns, on a time-table for the complete withdrawal of their forces, taking account of the military and practical questions involved. This time-table should be reported as quickly as possible to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. In preparing this time-table, the Allied Commander will have regard to the following requirements:

(a) That the embarkations of personnel and material shall be carried out in an efficient and orderly manner.

(b) That steps will be taken to ensure the maintenance of public security in the area now under Allied control.

(c) That the Commander of the International Force should make himself responsible for the safety of any French and British salvage resources left at the disposition of the competent organization of the United Nations.

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5. In communicating these conclusions, the two Governments nevertheless recall the strong representations they have made regarding the treatment of their nationals in Egypt. They draw attention to the humane and liberal treatment accorded to Egyptian nationals in their territory. They feel entitled to demand that the position of British and French nationals in Egypt should be fully guaranteed.

C. Instruction issued by the Secretary-General to the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force

The Secretary-General has instructed the Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, Major-General Burns, to get into immediate touch with the Anglo-French Commander with a view to working out with him arrangements for the complete withdrawal of Anglo-French forces without delay. General Burns has been further instructed to arrange for the earliest possible date for the completion of this programme, taking into account the military and practical questions involved and the need to maintain public security in the area. In view of the Secretary-General's understanding of the policy of the United Kingdom and French Governments regarding withdrawal, the attention of General Burns has been drawn to the need to ensure that the United Nations Force should be in a position to assume its responsibilities in the Port Said area by the middle of December.

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