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

Letter dated 27 November 1956 to the Secretary-General from the
Chairman of the French delegation to the eleventh session of
the General Assembly

New York, 27 November 1956

In an aide memoire dated 21 November last I informed you of my Government's grave concern at the steps being taken against French nationals in Egypt. I drew your attention inter alia to the deplorable sanitary conditions imposed on those French nationals who had been arrested at the order of the Egyptian authorities and who were being subjected to treatment constituting a violation of the provisions of the Charter, of the Declaration of Human Rights and of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

My Government has just learned of new threats to the well-being of its nationals. Through its police forces, the Egyptian Government is exerting pressure on them which is in fact intended to secure their expulsion from Egypt within a period of seven to ten days. The general application of these measures of intimidation by the police is equivalent in practice to an expulsion order by the Egyptian Government.

I wish to emphasize that these acts by the Egyptian Government are inadmissible. They are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 9) and they constitute a flagrant violation of the spirit and the letter of the undertakings subscribed to by Egypt in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

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I should be most grateful if you could use your influence with the Cairo Government to ensure that the measures taken, which seems likely to become increasingly inhumane in character, do not become a systematic policy aimed at the expulsion of French nationals.

My Government is anxious to obtain a formal guarantee that the necessary steps will be taken to guard French nationals against any aggravation of the measures which are already being applied to them by the Egyptian Government. It earnestly hopes that your approach to the Egyptian Government will speedily produce the desired results.

(Signed) V. BROUSTRA