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SUMMARY STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON MATTERS  
OF WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS SEIZED AND ON THE  
STAGE REACHED IN THEIR CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to submit the following statement on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration on 13 October 1956.

1. The Iranian question (see S/3618)
2. Special agreements under Article 43 and the organization of the armed forces made available to the Security Council (see S/3618)
3. Rules of procedure of the Security Council (see S/3618)
4. Statute and rules of procedure of the Military Staff Committee (see S/3618)
5. The general regulation and reduction of armaments and information on the armed forces of the United Nations (see S/3618)
6. Appointment of a governor for the Free Territory of Trieste (see S/3618)
7. The Egyptian question (see S/3618)
8. The Indonesian question (see S/3618)
9. Voting procedure in the Security Council (see S/3618)
10. Reports of the strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands pursuant to the resolution of the Security Council of 7 March 1949 (see S/3618)
11. Applications for membership (see S/3618, S/3626 and S/3630)
12. The Palestine question (see S/3618)
13. The India-Pakistan question (see S/3618)
14. The Czechoslovak question (see S/3618)
15. The question of the Free Territory of Trieste (see S/3618)
16. The Hyderabad question (see S/3618)
17. Identic notifications dated 29 September 1948 from the Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to the Secretary-General (see S/3618)

18. International control of atomic energy (see S/3618)
19. Complaint of armed invasion of Taiwan (Formosa) (see S/3618)
20. Complaint of bombing by air forces of the territory of China (see S/3618)
21. Complaint of failure by the Iranian Government to comply with provisional measures indicated by the International Court of Justice in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company case (see S/3618)
22. Question of an appeal to States to accede to and ratify the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons (see S/3618)
23. Question of a request for investigation of alleged bacterial warfare (see S/3618)
24. Letter dated 29 May 1954 from the acting representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (see S/3618)
25. Cablegram dated 19 June 1954 from the Minister of External Relations of Guatemala addressed to the President of the Security Council (see S/3618)
26. Letter dated 8 September 1954 from the representative of the United States of America addressed to the President of the Security Council (see S/3618)
27. Letter dated 28 January 1955 from the representative of New Zealand addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the question of hostilities in the area of certain islands off the coast of the mainland of China. Letter dated 30 January 1955 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning the question of acts of aggression by the United States of America against the People's Republic of China in the area of Taiwan and other islands of China (see S/3618)
28. Situation created by the unilateral action of the Egyptian Government in bringing to an end the system of international operation of the Suez Canal, which was confirmed and completed by the Suez Canal Convention of 1888 (see S/3661 and S/3667)

The Security Council's general debate on this item was continued at its 736th, 737th and 738th meetings, held on 8 and 9 October. In accordance with a decision taken at its 738th meeting, the Council considered the question further in private at its 739th, 740th and 741st meetings on 9, 11 and 12 October.

At the 742nd meeting, held in public on 13 October, the Council agreed to a proposal by the representative of the United States that it leave open for

consideration at a later stage of its proceedings the requests to participate in the discussion submitted by Israel and the Arab States, and meanwhile invite the representatives of those States to present their Governments' views to the Council in written statements to be circulated by the President.

At the same meeting a new joint draft resolution (S/3671) was introduced by France and the United Kingdom. According to this proposal, the Security Council, after noting the declarations made before it and the accounts of the development of the exploratory conversations on the Suez question given by the Secretary-General and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, France and the United Kingdom, would (1) agree that any settlement of the Suez question should meet the following requirements: (a) there should be free and open transit through the Canal without discrimination, overt or covert - that covered both political and technical aspects; (b) the sovereignty of Egypt should be respected; (c) the operation of the Canal should be insulated from the politics of any country; (d) the manner of fixing tolls and charges should be decided by agreement between Egypt and the users; (e) a fair proportion of the dues should be allotted to development; and (f) in case of disputes, unresolved affairs between the Suez Canal Company and the Egyptian Government should be settled by arbitration with suitable terms of reference and suitable provisions for the payment of sums found to be due; (2) consider that the proposals of the eighteen Powers corresponded to the requirements set out above and were suitably designed to bring about a settlement of the Suez Canal question by peaceful means in conformity with justice; (3) note that the Egyptian Government, while declaring its readiness in the exploratory conversations to accept the principle of organized collaboration between and Egyptian Authority and the users, had not yet formulated sufficiently precise proposals to meet the requirements set out above; (4) invite the Governments of Egypt, France and the United Kingdom to continue their interchanges and in this connexion invite the Egyptian Government to make known promptly its proposals for a system meeting the requirements set out above and providing guarantees to the users not less effective than those sought by the proposals of the eighteen Powers; and (5) consider that pending the conclusion of an agreement for the definitive settlement of the regime of the Suez Canal on the basis of the above requirements, the Suez Canal Users' Association, which had been qualified to receive the dues payable by ships belonging to its members, and the competent

Egyptian authorities, should co-operate to ensure the satisfactory operation of the Canal and free and open transit through the Canal in accordance with the 1888 Convention.

At the 743rd meeting, also held on 13 October, the representative of Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (S/3672) according to which the Security Council, having discussed the question of the Suez Maritime Canal and noting with satisfaction the conversations which, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, had taken place between the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, France and the United Kingdom, as well as the spirit in which they had been conducted, would (1) consider that a solution to be found must meet certain requirements (the same as the six principles set out in the first operative paragraph of the British-French draft resolution (S/3671)); (2) recommend that the negotiations be continued; (3) request the Secretary-General to offer, if necessary, his assistance in subsequent stages of negotiations; and (4) call upon all the parties concerned to abstain from taking any measures which might impair those negotiations.

The representatives of France and the United Kingdom accepted a suggestion by the representative of Iran to add a phrase at the end of operative paragraph 2 reading: "while recognizing that other proposals, corresponding to the same requirements, might be submitted by the Egyptian Government".

The joint draft resolution (S/3671) of France and the United Kingdom, as modified, was put to the vote in two parts. The first part, including the preamble and operative paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (a) through (f), received 11 votes in favour and was declared unanimously adopted. The second part, including operative paragraphs 2 through 5, received 9 votes in favour to 2 against (USSR and Yugoslavia), and was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. It was agreed that since the whole of the resolution was then identical with the first part, it could be considered that the resolution as a whole had been adopted unanimously.

The representative of Yugoslavia declared that he would not press for a vote on the Yugoslav draft resolution (S/3672).

29. Actions against Egypt by some Powers, particularly France and the United Kingdom, which constitute a danger to international peace and security and are serious violations of the Charter of the United Nations (see S/3661)

