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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 3 November 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, S/3687 and S/3700)

By a letter dated 29 October 1956 (S/3706) addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of the United States of America stated that his Government had received information to the effect that the armed forces of Israel had penetrated deeply into Egyptian territory in a military action

commenced on 29 October in the Sinai area. He therefore requested the convocation of a meeting of the Council as soon as possible to consider "Steps for the immediate cessation of the military action of Israel in Egypt".

At its 748th meeting on 30 October, the Security Council included the sub-item proposed by the representative of the United States in its agenda without objection and invited the representatives of Egypt and Israel to participate in its consideration. Following a statement by the representative of the United States and a report by the Secretary-General on information received from the Chief of Staff, the Council began its general debate on the question.

Consideration of the question was continued at the 749th and 750th meetings, also held on 30 October. The representative of the United Kingdom read the text of a statement (S/3711) by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in the House of Commons on 30 October, declaring, inter alia, that the United Kingdom and French Governments had addressed urgent communications to the Governments of Egypt and Israel, calling upon both sides to stop all warlike action by land, sea and air forthwith and to withdraw their military forces to a distance of 10 miles from the Suez Canal. In order to separate the belligerents and to guarantee freedom of transit through the Canal by the ships of all nations, they had asked the Egyptian Government to agree that Anglo-French forces should move temporarily into key positions at Port Said, Ismailia and Suez. It had been made clear to Egypt and Israel that if after twelve hours one or both had not undertaken to comply with those requirements, British and French forces would intervene in whatever strength proved necessary to secure compliance.

Also at the 749th meeting the representative of the United States introduced a draft resolution (S/3710) providing that the Security Council, noting that the armed forces of Israel had penetrated deeply into Egyptian territory in violation of the Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel and expressing its grave concern, should (1) call upon Israel immediately to withdraw its armed forces behind the established armistice lines; (2) call upon all Members to refrain from the use of force or threat of force in the area in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations, to assist the United Nations in ensuring the integrity of the Armistice Agreements, and to refrain from giving

any military, economic or financial assistance to Israel so long as it had not complied with the resolution; and (3) request the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed on compliance with the resolution and to make whatever recommendations he deemed appropriate for the maintenance of international peace and security in the area by the implementation of that and prior resolutions.

At a later stage the representative of the United States agreed to amend his draft resolution by the insertion of a new paragraph 1, calling upon Israel and Egypt immediately to cease fire, and to renumber the paragraphs of the draft resolution accordingly.

The Security Council took a vote at its 749th meeting on the United States draft resolution (S/3710), as modified, which failed of adoption owing to the negative votes of two permanent members of the Council. It received 7 votes in favour, 2 against (France and the United Kingdom), and 2 abstentions (Australia and Belgium).

Following the vote, the representative of the USSR introduced a draft resolution (S/3713) providing that the Security Council, noting that the armed forces of Israel had penetrated deeply into Egyptian territory in violation of the Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel and expressing its grave concern at that violation of the Armistice Agreement, would call upon Israel immediately to withdraw its armed forces behind the established armistice lines. At the suggestion of the representatives of China and Iran, the representative of the USSR agreed to add to his draft resolution paragraphs calling upon Israel and Egypt immediately to cease fire, and requesting the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed on compliance with the resolution and to make whatever recommendations he deemed appropriate.

The Council decided by 8 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, to adjourn until 9 p.m., and agreed to include as a second item in its evening agenda a letter dated 30 October from the representative of Egypt (S/3712).

At the 750th meeting the revised text of the USSR draft resolution (S/3713/Rev.1) was questioned by some Council members because the text had been revised to read in paragraph 1 "Calls upon all the parties concerned immediately to cease fire". The representative of the USSR accordingly agreed to revert to the original text reading "Calls upon Israel and Egypt immediately to cease fire".

The revised USSR draft resolution (S/3713/Rev.1), as amended, was then put to the vote, and was not adopted owing to the negative votes of two permanent members of the Council. It received 7 votes in favour, 2 against (France and the United Kingdom), with 2 abstentions (Belgium and the United States of America).

Following the vote on the USSR draft resolution and some explanations of votes by Council members, the Security Council turned to the next item on its agenda for the meeting, the letter dated 30 October from the representative of Egypt (see item 32 below). At the conclusion of its consideration of that item, the Council adopted a resolution at its 751st meeting on 31 October considering that a grave situation had been created by action undertaken against Egypt, taking into account the fact that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 749th and 750th meetings of the Council had prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and deciding to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly in order to make appropriate recommendations.

13. The India-Pakistan question (see S/3618)
14. The Czechoslovak question (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, S/3667 and S/3677)
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)
30. The situation in Hungary

By a letter dated 27 October 1956 (S/3690), the representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed the President of the Security Council with regard to the situation created by the action of foreign military forces in Hungary in violently repressing the rights of the Hungarian people as secured by the Treaty of Peace to which the Governments of Hungary and the Allied and Associated Powers were parties. These three Governments therefore requested, under Article 34 of the Charter, that an item entitled "The situation in Hungary" be included in the agenda of the Security Council and that the Council be convened urgently to consider the item.

By a letter dated 28 October (S/3691), addressed to the Secretary-General, the representative of the Hungarian People's Republic transmitted the text of a declaration by his Government protesting the placing on the agenda consideration of any question concerning the domestic affairs of Hungary.

At its 746th meeting, on 28 October, the Security Council decided, by a vote of 9 to 1 (USSR), with 1 abstention (Yugoslavia), to include the question in its agenda. In response to his request (S/3694), the Council agreed, without objection, to invite the representative of Hungary to participate, without vote, in its consideration of the question. By a vote of 1 in favour (USSR) to 9 against, with 1 abstention (Yugoslavia), the Council rejected a proposal of the USSR for postponement of the discussion of the question for three or four days. Following statements by members of the Council and by the representative of Hungary, the Council adjourned, leaving it to the discretion of the President to convene another meeting when he deemed necessary.

By a letter dated 2 November 1956 (S/3723), the representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America requested the President of the Security Council, in view of the critical situation in Hungary, to call an urgent meeting of the Council that afternoon.

At its 752nd meeting of 2 November, the Security Council, after some discussion, agreed to accept a suggestion of the President that the credentials of the representative of Hungary be accepted provisionally and that he retain his seat at the Council table but not make a statement pending verification of his credentials. The Council continued its discussion of the question and agreed to meet again the following day. Towards the close of the meeting the Council received the text of a letter (S/3726) dated 2 November, from the President of the Council of Ministers and Acting Foreign Minister of Hungary, which, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to call upon the Great Powers to recognize the declared neutrality of Hungary, and to ask the Security Council to instruct the Governments of the USSR and Hungary to start immediately negotiations concerning the execution of the termination of the Warsaw Pact and the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary.

At the 753rd meeting on 3 November, a draft resolution (S/3730) was circulated by the representative of the United States, according to which the Security Council, considering that the United Nations is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members, recalling that the enjoyment of human rights and of fundamental freedoms in Hungary was specifically guaranteed by the Peace Treaty between Hungary and the Allied and Associated Powers signed at Paris on 10 February 1947 and that the general principle of those rights and

freedoms was affirmed for all peoples in the United Nations Charter, convinced that present events in Hungary manifested clearly the desire of the Hungarian people to exercise and to enjoy fully their fundamental rights, freedoms and independence, deploring the use of Soviet military forces to suppress the efforts of the Hungarian people to reassert their rights, noting the Declaration by the Soviet Government of 30 October 1956 of its avowed policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States, noting the communication of 1 November 1956 of the Government of Hungary to the Secretary-General regarding demands made by that Government to the Government of the USSR for "instant and immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces", noting further the communication of 2 November 1956 of the Government of Hungary to the Secretary-General asking the Security Council "to instruct the Soviet and Hungarian Governments to start the negotiations immediately" on withdrawal of Soviet forces, and anxious to see the independence and sovereignty of Hungary respected, would (1) call upon the Government of the USSR to desist forthwith from any form of intervention, particularly armed intervention, in the internal affairs of Hungary; (2) express the earnest hope that the USSR, under appropriate arrangements with the Government of Hungary, would withdraw all Soviet forces from Hungary without delay; (3) affirm the right of the Hungarian people to a government responsive to its national aspirations and dedicated to its independence and well-being; (4) request the Secretary-General in consultation with the heads of appropriate specialized agencies to explore on an urgent basis the need of the Hungarian people for food, medicine and other similar supplies and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible; and (5) request all Members of the United Nations and invite national and international humanitarian organizations to co-operate in making available such supplies as might be required by the Hungarian people.

The representative of Peru suggested that amendments might be made in the United States draft resolution, to the effect that paragraph 2 would begin with the words "is confident" or "trusts", and that operative paragraph 3 would include reference to the right of the Hungarian people to "secure, through free elections" a government responsive to its national aspirations.

The Council, by a vote of 6 to 2, with 3 abstentions, failed to adopt a proposal to meet again at 5 p.m. on 4 November, and decided, by 10 votes to none,

with 1 abstention, to hold its next meeting at 10.30 a.m. on 5 November, it being understood that the scheduling did not rule out the possibility of calling a meeting earlier if circumstances should so warrant.

31. Military assistance rendered by the Egyptian Government to the rebels in Algeria

By a letter dated 25 October 1956 (S/3689 and Corr.1) addressed to the Secretary-General, the representative of France requested that an item be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Council concerning "Military assistance rendered by the Egyptian Government to the rebels in Algeria". In an accompanying explanatory memorandum he charged that an examination by French authorities of the Egyptian vessel "Athos" on 16 October had disclosed that it was carrying a very large cargo of arms and ammunition which had been loaded in Alexandria and was intended for delivery to a maquis chief in Algeria.

At its 747th meeting on 29 October, following a statement by the representative of France, the Security Council decided, without objection, to include the item on its agenda, and further decided to invite a representative of Egypt to participate, without vote, in its discussion of the question. The Council agreed that it would be left for the incoming President of the Council to fix the date for the next meeting on the subject.

32. Letter dated 30 October 1956 from the representative of Egypt addressed to the President of the Security Council

By a letter dated 30 October 1956 (S/3712), addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of Egypt requested that the Council be convened that evening to consider a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, which he transmitted concerning a note to the Government of Egypt from the Government of the United Kingdom containing an ultimatum to Egypt to (a) stop all warlike actions by land, sea and air; (b) withdraw all Egyptian military forces ten miles from the Suez Canal; and (c) accept occupation of Egyptian territory by British and French forces of key positions at Port Said, Ismailia and Suez. The ultimatum demanded an answer by 6.30 a.m. on 31 October, failing which the Governments of the United Kingdom and France would intervene in whatever strength they might deem necessary to secure compliance. The Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that that threat of force by the British



and French Governments and the imminent danger of occupation of Egyptian territory in flagrant violation of the rights of Egypt and of the Charter of the United Nations had impelled the Government of Egypt to request that the Security Council be convened immediately to consider the British-French act of aggression.

At its 750th meeting on 30 October 1956, the Security Council included this letter from the representative of Egypt (S/3712) in its agenda by a vote of 7 in favour to none against, with 4 abstentions (Australia, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom). Following the rejection of a USSR draft resolution on the Palestine question (see paragraph 12 above), the Council began its consideration of the letter from Egypt, the representative of Egypt having been invited to participate, without vote, in its consideration. Following statements by several members, the Council adjourned until the next day in order to reflect on a suggestion made by the representative of Yugoslavia that the Council consider the possibility of calling an emergency special session of the General Assembly under the terms of resolution 377 (V), "Uniting for Peace".

At the 751st meeting on 31 October, the representative of Yugoslavia formally submitted a draft resolution (S/3719), which provided that the Security Council, considering that a grave situation had been created by action undertaken against Egypt, and taking into account that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 749th and 750th meetings of the Council had prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, should decide to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly as provided in the General Assembly's resolution 377 (V) in order to make appropriate recommendations. By a vote of 4 in favour (Australia, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom) to 6 against, with 1 abstention (China), the Council rejected a motion by the United Kingdom to the effect that the Yugoslav draft resolution should be ruled out of order. The Council then adopted the draft resolution of Yugoslavia. There were 7 votes in favour, 2 against (France and the United Kingdom), with 2 abstentions (Australia and Belgium).

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