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

Exchange of letters between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Israel and the Secretary-General

I

Letter dated 26 November 1956 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Israel, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 26 November 1956

On 8 November, ^{1/}I conveyed to you my Government's expression of willingness to withdraw its forces from Egyptian territory on the conclusion of satisfactory arrangements with the United Nations in connexion with the Emergency International Force.

On 21 November, ^{2/}this policy was reiterated in an aide mémoire addressed to you. I understood from you that you would appoint representatives to pursue our discussions on this subject.

In the plenary session of the General Assembly on 24 November the Israel representative expressed the willingness of the Israel Government to continue to discuss with you the means of implementing its undertakings with respect to the withdrawal of forces from Egypt.

I presume that you are now in a position to resume the discussion on these matters. We are prepared to make specific proposals in connexion with the United Nations Emergency Force.

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^{1/} A/3320.

^{2/} A/3384, annex 2.

In view of the time which has elapsed since I first made this suggestion I should be grateful to hear when you are prepared to meet me and members of my Delegation for this discussion.

(Signed) Golda MEIR
Minister for Foreign Affairs

II

Letter dated 26 November 1956 from the Secretary-General, addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel.

New York, 26 November 1956

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 26 November in which you express the expectation that I may now be in a position to resume the discussion of matters raised by you in connexion with the withdrawal of Israeli forces. You further declare that you are prepared to make specific proposals in connexion with the United Nations Emergency Force, and that, in view of the time which has elapsed since you first made the suggestion, you would like to hear when I am prepared to meet with you and members of your Delegation.

You will remember that, in reply to your letter of 8 November in which you stated your willingness to withdraw the Israeli forces on the conclusion of satisfactory arrangements with the United Nations in connexion with the Emergency International Force, I asked you, by letter of 11 November,^{1/} to take immediately the necessary steps for the discussion to which you now refer. In that context I expressed my expectation that, prior to such a discussion, you would wish first to give me a clarification of your views.

My position as reflected in the letter, 11 November, remains unchanged. If you would find it possible to put forward the specific proposals concerning the United Nations Emergency Force, to which you refer in your letter of today,

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^{1/} A/3342.

so that I could give them consideration before we engage in a discussion, I believe that it would considerably facilitate our task. Obviously I would not permit this in any way to delay the withdrawal of Israel's forces in compliance with the unqualified and unconditional demand of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Dag HAMMARSKJOLD
Secretary-General

