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

Letter dated 1 December 1956 from the Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-
General

New York, 1 December 1956

On 8 November 1956 the Government of Israel conveyed to you its willingness to withdraw its forces from Egypt on the conclusion of satisfactory arrangements with the United Nations in connexion with the Emergency International Force.

Since that date substantial withdrawals have taken place and information to that effect has been conveyed to you (A/3389 and A/3389/Add.1).

I have had opportunities of discussing with you the kind of arrangements which, in our view, should be instituted in connexion with the agreed withdrawal of forces. We have also received relevant information from you on the progress made and envisaged in the arrival and functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force.

In the light of these discussions the Government of Israel is now taking the following additional steps in implementation of the General Assembly's recommendation of 2 November, with particular reference to paragraph 4 providing for the reopening and restoration of secure freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal:

(1) As a result of the progressive withdrawal of our forces, in accordance with the undertaking conveyed to you on 8 November, there will be no Israeli forces anywhere within a wide belt of territory (about 50 kilometres) in proximity to the Suez Canal along its entire length by the morning of 3 December.

(2) The Government of Israel is agreeable that General Burns be in touch with it in connexion with the location of units of the United Nations Emergency Force in the area between the Suez Canal and the western limits of the Israel positions. The Israel Government will offer whatever technical assistance is necessary to facilitate the implementation of this measure.

(3) As a result of this and of other troop movements carried out pursuant to a policy of progressive withdrawal another infantry brigade has now been moved entirely out of Egyptian territory into the territory of Israel, and has been demobilized. This is in addition to the withdrawals announced on 24 November.

(Signed) Abba EBAN
Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations