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LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1973 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Security Council resolution 340 (1973), adopted by the Council on 25 October 1973, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to report within 24 hours on the steps taken to set up immediately, under the authority of the Council, a United Nations emergency force. I shall deliver to the Council within the time-limit set the report required.

In the meantime, as an urgent interim measure and in order that the emergency force may reach the area as soon as possible, I propose to arrange for the contingents of Austria, Finland and Sweden now serving with the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to proceed immediately to Egypt. I also propose to appoint General Siilasvuo, the Chief of Staff of UNTSO, as the interim Commander of the emergency force and to ask him to set up a provisional headquarters staff of personnel from UNTSO.

I am consulting the parties concerned on this interim arrangement. I am also consulting the permanent representatives of the three countries whose contingents are involved and also the Governments of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey, in relation to the temporary reduction of the strength of UNFICYP. I propose to replace these units in Cyprus as soon as possible.

I would be grateful, Mr. President, if you could let me know urgently whether this proposal is acceptable to the members of the Security Council. This step - if accepted - would, of course, be without prejudice to the more detailed and comprehensive report on the emergency force which I shall submit to the Council on 26 October.

(Signed) Kurt WALDHEIM