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LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been instructed by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, to convey to you the following message:

"We have been profoundly shocked by recent developments in the Middle East, and more particularly by the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt after their rejection of the Security Council resolution moved by the U.S.A. It is clear and admitted that Israel has committed large-scale aggression against Egypt. Instead of trying to stop this aggression, the United Kingdom and France are themselves invading Egyptian territory. This is not only an affront to the Security Council and a violation of the United Nations Charter but also likely to lead to the gravest possible consequences all over the world.

Egypt which has suffered from Israeli aggression has, in addition, to suffer grievously by the Anglo-French invasion of her territory. The argument that this invasion is meant to protect the Suez Canal and to ensure free traffic has no force as the first result of this invasion is for the traffic to cease.

In view of the disastrous consequences of this invasion of Egyptian territory, I earnestly trust that the United Nations will take strong steps in this matter to prevent the world plunging into war, and demand immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Egypt. The procedure of the United Nations must be swifter than those of invasion and aggression.

In sending this message, I am not only reflecting the unanimous view of my Government and people but also, I am sure, of a large number of other peoples.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU."

I would be grateful if you would kindly bring the above message immediately to the notice of the Security Council and also circulate it to all members of the United Nations.

Yours, etc.

(Signed) Arthur S. Lall

Permanent Representative of
India to the United Nations

