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Summoning of the First Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly Note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English] [1 November 1956]

The Security Council, at its 751st meeting on 31 October 1956, adopted the following resolution (S/ 3721):

"The Security Council,

"Considering that a grave situation has been created by action undertaken against Egypt,

"Taking into account that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 749th and 750th meetings of the Security Council has prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Decides to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly as provided in the General Assembly's resolution 377 A (V) of 3 November 1950, in order to make appropriate recommendations."

Accordingly, the Secretary-General, acting under the provisions of rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, has, by telegram dated 31 October 1956, summoned the first emergency special session of the Assembly to meet on Thursday, 1 November 1956, at 5 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall, Headquarters, New York.

DOCUMENT A/32562

United States of America: draft resolution

[Original text: English] [1 November 1956]

The General Assembly, Noting the disregard on many occasions by parties

See Official Records of the Security Council, Eleventh Year.
Subsequently became resolution 997 (ES-I).

to the Israel-Arab armistice agreements of 1949 of the terms of such agreements, and that the armed forces of Israel have penetrated deeply into Egyptian territory in violation of the General Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel,

Noting that armed forces of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are conducting military operations against Egyptian territory,

Noting that traffic through the Suez Canal is now interrupted to the serious prejudice of many nations,

Expressing its grave concern over these developments,

- 1. Urges as a matter of priority that all parties now involved in hostilities in the area agree to an immediate cease-fire and, as part thereof, halt the movement of military forces and arms into the area;
- 2. Urges the parties to the armistice agreements promptly to withdraw all forces behind the armistice lines, to desist from raids across the armistice lines

into neighbouring territory, and to observe scrupulously the provisions of the armistice agreements;

3. Recommends that all Member States refrain from introducing military goods in the area of hostilities and in general refrain from any acts which would delay or prevent the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Urges that, upon the cease-fire being effective, steps be taken to reopen the Suez Canal and restore

secure freedom of navigation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to observe and promptly report on the compliance with the present resolution to the Security Council and to the General Assembly, for such further action as they may deem appropriate in accordance with the Charter;

6. Decides to remain in emergency session pending

compliance with the present resolution.

DOCUMENT A/3266

Aide-mémoire dated 2 November 1956 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt, addressed to the Secretary-General.

[Original text: English] [2 November 1956]

The Egyptian Government instructed me to inform you that it accepts the resolution adopted this morning, 2 November 1956, by the special extraordinary session of the General Assembly; on the condition of course that it could not implement the resolution in case attacking armies continue their aggression.

DOCUMENT A/3267

Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 997 (ES-I), para. 5, adopted by the General Assembly on 2 November 1956

[Original text: English] [3 November 1956]

- 1. Official information concerning compliance with the resolution has been received as of 11.30 a.m. on 3 November from only two of the parties involved in hostilities in the area, i.e. Egypt and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 2. An aide-mémoire from the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations received on the evening of 2 November (A/3266), states that the Egyptian Government accepts the resolution of the General Assembly "on the condition of course that it could not implement the resolution in case attacking armies continue their aggression".
- 3. According to word received this morning from the permanent representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, the Governments of France and the United Kingdom continue to "maintain their view that police action must be carried through urgently to stop the hostilities which are now threatening the Suez Canal, to prevent a resumption of those hostilities and to pave the way for a definitive settlement of the Arab-Israel war which threatens the legitimate interests of so many countries. They would most willingly stop military action as soon as the following conditions could be satisfied:
 - "(a) Both the Egyptian and the Israel Governments agree to accept a United Nations Force to keep the peace;
 - "(b) The United Nations decides to constitute and maintain such a Force until an Arab-Israel peace

- settlement is reached and until satisfactory arrangements have been agreed in regard to the Suez Canal, both agreements to be guaranteed by the United Nations;
- "(c) In the meantime, until the United Nations Force is constituted, both combatants agree to accept forthwith limited detachments of Anglo-French troops to be stationed between the combatants."
- 4. The permanent representatives of France and the United Kingdom have indicated that aide-mémoire covering these views of their Governments may be expected to be received in the course of the day. These communications, when received, will be circulated as separate documents.
- 5. Official communiqués indicate that the air operations over Egyptian territory have continued without interruption. A communication received late this morning from the representative of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Cairo, Colonel Ely, and the other senior United Nations representatives in Egypt, is annexed. I have submitted this communication to the delegation of the United Kingdom. It is circulated to Members with a reservation as regards any clarification of the radio announcement which may be later received.
- 6. The Gaza strip, including the town of Gaza, has been occupied by Israel military forces. In the Gaza area, at my request, representatives of the United