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Communication dated 3 November 1956 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt, addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General

[Original text: English]
[3 November 1956]

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the Members of the General Assembly the text of identic communications received from the permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations, addressed to the President of the General Assembly during its first emergency special session and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I have the honour to transmit the text of the following communication from the Egyptian Government and request meanwhile an immediate meeting of the first emergency special session of the General Assembly in order to take actions referred to in paragraph 5 of the General Assembly resolution 997 (ES-I) adopted on 2 November 1956:

"The whole world is aware of the treacherous and unprovoked aggression by the Israeli armed forces on Egyptian territory on 29 October. On 30 October the collusion between Israel on the one hand, and the United Kingdom and France on the other, appeared in the open. It was clear that the Israeli attack was launched with the approval and the connivance of France and the United Kingdom. It was again clear that France and the United Kingdom encouraged the Israeli attack to take it as a pretext to intervene in the area and to attack and try to occupy Egyptian territory. The plot was made clear by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom when he addressed an ultimatum to the Egyptian Government asking for the cessation of hostilities between Egypt and Israel, the withdrawal of military forces ten miles from the Suez Canal and, furthermore, asking the agreement of the Egyptian Government for the occupation of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez by French and British armed forces. The British ultimatum was calculated as not to be accepted by any sovereign State. The Egyptian Government used its right as a sovereign and independent State and refused the ultimatum. In spite of the indignation felt by world public opinion, the French and British Governments put their ultimatum in effect.

"On the night of 31 October, joint French and British forces began their attack on Egyptian people and territory. They launched systematic and barbarous attacks by air on all Egyptian airfields, destroying property and causing casualties among civilians without discrimination. So far casualties amount to 250 victims.

"The Anglo-French assault against Egypt aroused the indignation of public opinion everywhere and prompted the Security Council to call for an emergency session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Assembly, by an overwhelming majority, approved a draft resolution presented by the United States Government. The General Assembly's resolution called for an immediate cease-fire, for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces behind the armistice demarcation lines, for the scrupulous observance of the provisions of the armistice agreement, for all Members to refrain from any acts which would delay or prevent the implementation of this resolution, and for the reopening of the Suez Canal and restoration of the freedom of navigation in it. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to observe and promptly report on the compliance with this resolution to the General Assembly in order that it may take such further action as it may deem appropriate in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In spite of this resolution, which represents the deep conviction of the entire world, Anglo-French air attacks continued and even increased in intensity and frequency. Furthermore, it is also reported that Anglo-French armed forces are taking part in the fight against Egyptian troops on Egyptian territory in the Sinai peninsula.

"Faced with this continuous ruthless Anglo-French aggression, the Egyptian Government has decided to ask for an immediate meeting of the General Assembly in order to take the actions it pledged itself to undertake in order to uphold the principles of law and order and to stop the unprovoked attack to which Egypt is unlawfully subjected and to put an end to the deliberate massacre of peaceful civilians."

(Signed) Omar LOUFTI
Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations

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