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GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS
749TH AND 750TH MEETINGS HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 1956

Report of the Secretary-General on communications with the four Governments
on implementation of the resolutions of 2 and 4 November 1956

1. In its resolution of 4 November 1956 (A/3275), the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General immediately to arrange with the parties concerned for implementation of the cease-fire and the halting of the movement of military forces and arms into the area as requested in its resolution of 2 November 1956 (A/3256). The General Assembly also requested him to report on compliance forthwith and in any case not later than twelve hours from the time of adoption of the resolution.
2. In fulfilment of the task thus entrusted to him, the Secretary-General addressed communications to the four Governments directly concerned.
- ... These communications, the texts of which are annexed (annexes 1 to 4), were sent directly by cable a few hours after the adoption of the resolution.
3. Taking into account the practical difficulties which were bound to arise in the course of the operation, both for the Governments and for the Secretary-General, the latter felt entitled to suggest as the time for a cease-fire 2000 GMT (1500 New York time). This proposal made it obviously impossible for him to report within twelve hours, as requested. However, in order to increase the chances for a successful outcome, and in the light of observations made by a sponsor of the resolution of 4 November, the Secretary-General followed this course, which would still enable the General Assembly to take the matter up for renewed consideration during the evening of 4 November 1956.

4. In the course of his contacts with Governments, the Secretary-General's attention has been drawn to difficulties which would follow from the very narrow margin allowed in the time-limit which had been set. In the light of these difficulties, which it would have been harmful to the operation not to take fully into account, the Secretary-General later addressed to the four Governments identic cables, stating that the time-limit set for the cease-fire was changed from 2000 hours GMT, 4 November 1956, to 0500 hours GMT, 5 November 1956 (2400 hours 4 November 1956, New York time).
- ... The text of these identic cables is annexed (annex 5). The extension of the time-limit does not, of course, in any way influence the request made to the four Governments for the earliest possible reply.
5. At the time of the preparation of this report (1600 hours, 4 November 1956) the Secretary-General has received a reply to the questions raised in his cables to the four Governments early this morning only from the Government of Egypt. The message from this Government is annexed (annex 6). Communications received later will be circulated as separate documents.

ANNEX 1

CABLEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT

New York, 4 November 1956

1. THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS MEETING OF 3-4 NOVEMBER 1956 ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOTING WITH REGRET THAT NOT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE YET AGREED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956, NOTING THE SPECIAL PRIORITY GIVEN IN THE RESOLUTION TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND AS PART THEREOF TO THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, NOTING FURTHER THAT THE RESOLUTION URGED 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, ONE REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956 AND ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID RESOLUTION; TWO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY GENERAL IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA AND REQUESTS HIM TO REPORT COMPLIANCE FORTHWITH AND, IN ANY CASE, NOT LATER THAN TWELVE HOURS FROM THE TIME OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION; THREE REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION, TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES; FOUR DECIDES TO MEET AGAIN IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS RESOLUTION STOP UNQUOTE
2. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTE THE INFORMATION CONVEYED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF 2 NOVEMBER TRANSMITTED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER QUOTE ON THE CONDITION THAT IT COULD NOT IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION IN CASE ATTACKING ARMIES CONTINUE THEIR AGGRESSION UNQUOTE

3. IN CONNEXION WITH MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I TRUST THAT THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION STATED, APPLIES EQUALLY TO THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER.

4. IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISION IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL QUOTE IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA UNQUOTE, I AM NOTIFYING THE OTHER THREE PARTIES NOW INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES IN THE AREA OF EGYPT'S ACCEPTANCE, AS STATED, OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER, AND AM REQUESTING ALL FOUR PARTIES, WHICH, OF COURSE, INCLUDES EGYPT, TO BRING TO A HALT ALL HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE AREA BY 2000 GMT SUNDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 1956. MAY I FURTHER REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER BE COMMUNICATED TO ME AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND AT ALL EVENTS SO EARLY AS TO RENDER IT POSSIBLE TO INFORM THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DECISION PRIOR TO THE SAID HOUR. THE DECISIONS OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN THIS REGARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT WITHOUT DELAY.

5. IN PURSUANCE OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS BEING REQUESTED PROMPTLY TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE DEMARCATION LINES.

6. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE SHORT TIME LIMIT FIXED IN THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I REQUEST AGAIN THAT A DEFINITIVE REPLY BE GIVEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE HOUR. - DAG HAMMARSKJOLD SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ANNEX 2

CABLEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE

New York, 4 November 1956

1. THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS MEETING OF 3-4 NOVEMBER 1956 ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION
QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOTING WITH REGRET THAT NOT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE YET AGREED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956, NOTING THE SPECIAL PRIORITY GIVEN IN THE RESOLUTION TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND AS PART THEREOF TO THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, NOTING FURTHER THAT THE RESOLUTION URGED 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,
ONE REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956 AND ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID RESOLUTION;
TWO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY GENERAL IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA AND REQUESTS HIM TO REPORT COMPLIANCE FORTHWITH AND, IN ANY CASE, NOT LATER THAN TWELVE HOURS FROM THE TIME OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION;
THREE REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES;
FOUR DECIDES TO MEET AGAIN IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS RESOLUTION STOP UNQUOTE
2. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTE THE INFORMATION CONVEYED IN THE LETTER OF 3 NOVEMBER ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE STOPPED.

3. I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE THREE CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR A CESSATION OF YOUR ACTION. (I) IN THE VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/3276 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SUBMIT, WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, A PLAN FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS FORCE, THE DELEGATIONS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL ABSTAINED. (II) THE REQUEST, TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED, AND WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY, ESTABLISHES THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. IN A SEPARATE RESOLUTION AT THE SAME MEETING THE ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED A TIME-LIMIT OF TWELVE HOURS FOR A REPORT ON THE CEASE FIRE. IT THUS FOLLOWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DID NOT ACCEPT THE DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE AS A CONDITION FOR THE CEASE FIRE. (III) THE STATEMENTS MADE PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS A WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES ENGAGED IN THE PRESENT OPERATIONS IN THE AREA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FORCE. THIS HAS A DIRECT AND OBVIOUS BEARING ON ANY POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING ANGLO-FRENCH TROOPS BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS, PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE. I MUST ASSUME THE DECISION IN QUESTION TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF AN INTERPRETATION WHICH IF MAINTAINED WOULD EXCLUDE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AS A POSSIBLE CONDITION FOR A CEASE FIRE.

4. IN PURSUANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, QUOTED ABOVE; IN VIEW OF THE PROVISION IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER; AND IN VIEW, FURTHER, OF THE CANADIAN-SPONSORED RESOLUTION, ALSO ADOPTED ON 4 NOVEMBER, CONCERNING THE PLAN FOR A UNITED NATIONS FORCE, AND THE INDICATIONS IT GIVES AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE THREE CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, I MUST INQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WILL ACCEPT THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 3 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND WILL BE WILLING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE FIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER.

5. I WISH TO DRAW TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED THE CEASE FIRE ON THE CONDITION OF RECIPROCAL ACCEPTANCE BY EGYPT, WHILE EGYPT HAS ACCEPTED THE CEASE-FIRE PROVIDED THAT MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST EGYPT ARE STOPPED. WITH THE STANDS THUS TAKEN BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A CEASE FIRE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

6. IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISION IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL QUOTE IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE FIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA UNQUOTE, I AM REQUESTING ALL FOUR PARTIES, WHICH OF COURSE, INCLUDES FRANCE, TO BRING TO A HALT ALL HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE AREA BY 2000 GMT SUNDAY, 4 NOVEMBER, 1956. MAY I FURTHER REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER BE COMMUNICATED TO ME AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND AT ALL EVENTS SO EARLY AS TO RENDER IT POSSIBLE TO INFORM THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DECISION PRIOR TO THE SAID HOUR. THE DECISIONS OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN THIS REGARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WITHOUT DELAY.

7. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE SHORT TIME LIMIT FIXED IN THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I REQUEST AGAIN THAT A DEFINITIVE REPLY BE GIVEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE HOUR. - DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX 3

CABLEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, ADDRESSED TO THE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL

New York, 4 November 1956

1. THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS MEETING OF 3-4 NOVEMBER 1956 ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOTING WITH REGRET THAT NOT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE YET AGREED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956, NOTING THE SPECIAL PRIORITY GIVEN IN THE RESOLUTION TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND AS PART THEREOF TO THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, NOTING FURTHER THAT THE RESOLUTION URGED 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,
ONE REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956 AND ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID RESOLUTION;
TWO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY GENERAL IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA AND REQUESTS HIM TO REPORT COMPLIANCE FORTHWITH AND, IN ANY CASE, NOT LATER THAN TWELVE HOURS FROM THE TIME OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION;
THREE REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION, TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES;
FOUR DECIDES TO MEET AGAIN IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS RESOLUTION STOP UNQUOTE
2. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTE THE STATEMENT CONVEYED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE OF 4 NOVEMBER 1956 TO THE EFFECT THAT QUOTE ISRAEL AGREES TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE PROVIDED A SIMILAR ANSWER IS FORTHCOMING FROM EGYPT STOP UNQUOTE

3. IT IS NOTED FROM THE AIDE MEMOIRE, 4 NOVEMBER 1956, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS NOT STATED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER, URGING THE PARTIES TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS QUOTE 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 STOP UNQUOTE

4. I MAY CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT HAD, BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF 3-4 NOVEMBER, ACCEPTED THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER QUOTE ON THE CONDITION... THAT IT COULD NOT IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTION IN CASE ATTACKING ARMIES CONTINUE THEIR AGGRESSION STOP UNQUOTE

5. IN CONNEXION WITH MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ABOVEMENTIONED RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I TRUST THAT THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL CONCERNING A CEASEFIRE APPLIES TO THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER STOP

6. IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISION IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL QUOTE IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA UNQUOTE, I AM REQUESTING ALL FOUR PARTIES, WHICH OF COURSE, INCLUDES ISRAEL, TO BRING TO A HALT ALL HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE AREA BY 2000 GMT, SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 1956. MAY I FURTHER REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER BE COMMUNICATED TO ME AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND AT ALL EVENTS SO EARLY AS TO RENDER IT POSSIBLE TO INFORM THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DECISION PRIOR TO THE SAID HOUR. THE DECISIONS OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN THIS REGARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WITHOUT DELAY

7. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE SHORT TIME LIMIT FIXED IN THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I REQUEST AGAIN THAT A DEFINITIVE REPLY BE GIVEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE HOUR

8. IN PURSUANCE OF THE FUNCTION ENTRUSTED TO ME BY OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, AND IN VIEW OF THE PROVISIONS OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE

RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I MUST INQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL ACCEPT THESE PROVISIONS AND ACCORDINGLY WILL BE WILLING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASSISTED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION, FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF ISRAEL BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES.- DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX 4

CABLEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

New York, 4 November 1956

1. THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS MEETING OF 3-4 NOVEMBER 1956 ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: QUOTE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOTING WITH REGRET THAT NOT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE YET AGREED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956, NOTING THE SPECIAL PRIORITY GIVEN IN THE RESOLUTION TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE AND AS PART THEREOF TO THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, NOTING FURTHER THAT THE RESOLUTION URGED 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, ONE REAFFIRMS ITS RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1956 AND ONCE AGAIN CALLS UPON THE PARTIES IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID RESOLUTION; TWO AUTHORIZES THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE FIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA AND REQUESTS HIM TO REPORT COMPLIANCE FORTHWITH AND, IN ANY CASE, NOT LATER THAN TWELVE HOURS FROM THE TIME OF ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION; THREE REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES; FOUR DECIDES TO MEET AGAIN IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT REFERRED TO IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS RESOLUTION STOP UNQUOTE
2. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTE THE INFORMATION CONVEYED IN THE LETTER OF 3 NOVEMBER ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MILITARY ACTION WOULD BE STOPPED.

3. I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE THREE CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR A CESSATION OF YOUR ACTION.

(I) IN THE VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/3276 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUBMIT, WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, A PLAN FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS FORCE, THE DELEGATIONS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL ABSTAINED.

(II) THE REQUEST, TO WHICH I HAVE JUST REFERRED, AND WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY, ESTABLISHES THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. IN A SEPARATE RESOLUTION AT THE SAME MEETING THE ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED A TIME-LIMIT OF TWELVE HOURS FOR A REPORT ON THE CEASEFIRE. IT THUS FOLLOWS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DID NOT ACCEPT THE DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE AS A CONDITION FOR THE CEASEFIRE.

(III) THE STATEMENTS MADE PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS A WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES ENGAGED IN THE PRESENT OPERATIONS IN THE AREA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FORCE. THIS HAS A DIRECT AND OBVIOUS BEARING ON ANY POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING ANGLO-FRENCH TROOPS BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS, PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE. I MUST ASSUME THE DECISION IN QUESTION TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF AN INTERPRETATION WHICH IF MAINTAINED WOULD EXCLUDE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AS A POSSIBLE CONDITION FOR A CEASEFIRE.

4. IN PURSUANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, QUOTED ABOVE; IN VIEW OF THE PROVISION IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER; AND IN VIEW, FURTHER, OF THE CANADIAN-SPONSORED RESOLUTION, ALSO ADOPTED ON 4 NOVEMBER, CONCERNING THE PLAN FOR A UNITED NATIONS FORCE, AND THE INDICATIONS IT GIVES AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE THREE CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, I MUST INQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL ACCEPT THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 3 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 2 NOVEMBER AND WILL BE WILLING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER.

5. I WISH TO DRAW TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED THE CEASE FIRE ON THE CONDITION OF RECIPROCAL ACCEPTANCE BY EGYPT, WHILE EGYPT HAS ACCEPTED THE CEASE FIRE PROVIDED THAT MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST EGYPT ARE STOPPED. WITH THE STANDS THUS TAKEN BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE POSITION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A CEASE FIRE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

6. IN PURSUANCE OF THE PROVISION IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY GENERAL QUOTE IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASE FIRE AND THE HALTING OF THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES AND ARMS INTO THE AREA UNQUOTE, I AM REQUESTING ALL FOUR PARTIES, WHICH, OF COURSE, INCLUDES THE UNITED KINGDOM, TO BRING TO A HALT ALL HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE AREA BY 20.00 GMT, SUNDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 1956. MAY I FURTHER REQUEST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER BE COMMUNICATED TO ME AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND AT ALL EVENTS SO EARLY AS TO RENDER IT POSSIBLE TO INFORM THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DECISION PRIOR TO THE SAID HOUR. THE DECISIONS OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN THIS REGARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WITHOUT DELAY.

7. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE SHORT TIME LIMIT FIXED IN THE RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER, I REQUEST AGAIN THAT A DEFINITIVE REPLY BE GIVEN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE HOUR.- DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ANNEX 5

IDENTIC CABLEGRAMS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE
MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT, FRANCE, ISRAEL AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

SINCE THE DISPATCH TO YOU OF MY EARLIER CABLE TODAY COMMA MY ATTENTION
HAS BEEN DRAWN TO CERTAIN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN CONNEXION WITH THE TIME
LIMIT OF 2000 HOURS GMT COMMA SUNDAY FOUR NOVEMBER STATED IN THAT MESSAGE STOP
ACCORDINGLY COMMA I AM EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT HOUR FROM 2000 HOURS ON SUNDAY
COMMA FOUR NOVEMBER TO 0500 HOURS GMT ON MONDAY COMMA FIVE NOVEMBER STOP -
DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ANNEX 6

REPLY DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1956 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR COMMUNICATION DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1956 AND, IN LIGHT OF YOUR EXPLANATIONS THEREIN, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

1. ACCEPTS THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS MEETING OF 4 NOVEMBER 1956 AS MENTIONED IN YOUR COMMUNICATION.
 2. IS READY TO BRING TO A HALT ALL HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE AREA BY 2000 GMT.
 3. TAKES NOTE OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF YOUR COMMUNICATION IN CONNEXION WITH OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2 NOVEMBER AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 4 NOVEMBER 1956 RELATING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL ISRAELI FORCES BEHIND THE ARMISTICE LINES. -
- (SIGNED) MAHMOUD FAWZI
