



First emergency special session

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

Letter dated 7 November 1956 from the Secretary-General,
addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

New York, 7 November 1956

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your message of 6 November, transmitted to me through the Permanent Representative of France, in reply to my communication of 5 November.

I note that the French Government desires further information on three points referred to in its letter.

The Egyptian and Israel Governments have transmitted to me messages stating acceptance of an unconditional cease-fire. These messages have been circulated as General Assembly documents. I gave immediate verbal confirmation of these acceptances. The Egyptian and Israel Governments were informed of this confirmation. I now wish to repeat it to you in writing.

The General Assembly adopted this afternoon a resolution fully implementing the recommendations contained in my second and final report on an Emergency United Nations Force. It is my conviction, in the light of the promises of participation received from the Governments of various Member States, that this Force, when established in accordance with the General Assembly resolution now adopted, will be capable of carrying out the tasks assigned to it under the resolution of 2 November.

In this connexion I have to draw your attention to a statement made by Mr. Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister of Israel, in his address to the Knesset on 7 November. According to a report received from the Chief of the United Nations Command, the Prime Minister stated in this address: "the Armistice lines between Israel and Egypt have no validity", and "on no account will Israel agree to the

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stationing of a foreign force, no matter how called, in her territory or in any of the areas occupied by her".

If maintained in violation of the resolutions of the General Assembly on these matters, this position, while not affecting the cease-fire arrangements, would seriously complicate the task of giving effect to the resolution of 2 November 1956.

I shall as soon as possible revert to your offer to assist in the technical operations for re-opening the Suez Canal. I am at present exploring the possibility of having this work carried out under United Nations auspices by agents from countries not involved in the present conflict.

(Signed) Dag HAMMARSKJOLD
Secretary-General
