

1000 (ES-I) of the same date establishing "a United Nations Command for an emergency international Force to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities in accordance with all the terms of resolution 997 (ES-I) of the General Assembly of 2 November 1956";

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 1001 (ES-I) of 7 November 1956 approved the principle that it could not request the Force "to be stationed or operate on the territory of a given country without the consent of the Government of that country" (A/3302, para. 9)

Having agreed on the arrival in Egypt of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF);

Noting that advance groups of UNEF have already been received in Egypt,

The Government of Egypt and the Secretary-General of the United Nations have stated their understanding on the basic points for the presence and functioning of UNEF as follows:

1. The Government of Egypt declares that, when exercising its sovereign rights on any matter concerning the presence

and functioning of UNEF, it will be guided, in good faith, by its acceptance of General Assembly resolution 1000 (ES-I) of 5 November 1956.

2. The United Nations takes note of this declaration of the Government of Egypt and declares that the activities of UNEF will be guided, in good faith, by the task established for the Force in the aforementioned resolutions; in particular, the United Nations, understanding this to correspond to the wishes of the Government of Egypt, reaffirms its willingness to maintain UNEF until its task is completed.

3. The Government of Egypt and the Secretary-General declare that it is their intention to proceed forthwith, in the light of points 1 and 2 above, to explore jointly concrete aspects of the functioning of UNEF, including its stationing and the question of its lines of communication and supply; the Government of Egypt, confirming its intention to facilitate the functioning of UNEF, and the United Nations are agreed to expedite in co-operation the implementation of guiding principles arrived at as a result of that joint exploration on the basis of the resolutions of the General Assembly.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the clearing of the Suez Canal

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1. In the course of the recent hostilities in Egypt great damage was done to the Suez Canal. The Canal is now out of function, and considerable efforts of a most urgent character are needed to clear it from obstructions.

2. In its resolution 997 (ES-I) of 2 November 1956, the General Assembly urged that steps be taken to re-open the Suez Canal. Immediately upon the adoption of the resolution the Secretary-General proceeded to explore the technical possibilities of engaging the services of private firms for assistance in the clearing operation. For that purpose the Secretary-General addressed himself to the Governments of Denmark and of the Netherlands. On the basis of replies received, contacts were made with a number of private firms.

3. During the visit of the Secretary-General to Cairo, 16 to 18 November 1956, he had an opportunity to discuss the matter directly with the Government of Egypt. In view of the urgency of clearing the obstructions of the Suez Canal, and the scope of the task, the Government of Egypt addressed to him a request for assistance from the United Nations in arrangements for this purpose, as a matter of high priority. The Government of Egypt considered that the work should be started immediately upon withdrawal of non-Egyptian forces from Port Said and the Canal area.

4. Under the authority given to the Secretary-General under the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General gave his assurance, in principle, that the United Nations would seek to provide such assistance. In pursuance of this assurance, the Secretary-General now wishes to submit the question to the General Assembly.

5. The exploration undertaken has indicated that various private enterprises, with important resources, might agree to co-operate in the clearing of the Canal. The Secretary-General would propose that the General Assembly, confirming in this respect its previous decisions, should authorize the Secretary-General to proceed with his exploration of existing possibilities and to negotiate agreements with such firms as might speedily and effectively undertake the clearing operations. As indicated

above, he would, given the approval of the General Assembly to this proposal, intend to address himself to firms in countries outside the present conflict. In his contacts with the firms approached, he would try to clarify to what extent they, in turn, may need assistance from enterprises not directly approached by the United Nations.

6. At the present stage the Secretary-General is not prepared to indicate how the costs should be shared. He intends to revert to this question when the approximate costs have been estimated. He will at the proper stage of the negotiations request the necessary authority to conclude agreements concerning the operation.

7. In the course of the discussions between the Government of Egypt and the Secretary-General, the Government of Egypt expressed its wish to see the operation completed with the utmost speed. In view of the interest of the Government of Egypt, as well as of the interest of all the users of the Canal, the Secretary-General feels that the most expeditious procedure to achieve the desired results should be followed in connexion with the matter. That is why he suggests to the General Assembly to authorize him, in consultation with the Advisory Committee set up under resolution 1001 (ES-I) of the General Assembly of 7 November 1956, to enter into the financial commitments that are unavoidable, although he is not now in a position to indicate the size of those initial commitments.

8. As a first result of the further exploration and negotiations the Secretary-General anticipates that experts would have to be sent in order to survey the work to be undertaken. It would be his intention to use experts now employed within the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, assisted by representatives of the firms approached.

9. Although it is not proposed that the work begin until after the withdrawal of non-Egyptian forces from Port Said and the canal area, the Secretary-General considers it possible to pursue negotiations and, in agreement with the Government of Egypt, to arrange for the necessary survey of the conditions in the Canal without delay.