

The second was submitted by the Egyptian representative:

Actions against Egypt by some Powers, particularly France and the United Kingdom, which constitute a danger to international peace and security and are serious violations of the Charter of the United Nations.

The meeting on September 26 was concerned only with the adoption of an agenda. It was agreed that the two items should be taken up on October 5.

On the latter date the United Kingdom and France sought endorsement by the Council of the 18-power proposals. This was not forthcoming. However, as a result of public sessions, closed sessions, and private direct talks among the Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and Egypt, and the Secretary-General, there emerged a resolution adopted by the Council on October 13:

that any settlement of the Suez question should meet the following requirements:

- (1) there should be free and open transit through the Canal without discrimination, overt or covert—this covers both political and technical aspects;
- (2) the sovereignty of Egypt should be respected;
- (3) the operation of the Canal should be insulated from the politics of any country;
- (4) the manner of fixing tolls and charges should be decided by agreement between Egypt and the users;
- (5) a fair proportion of the dues should be allotted to development;
- (6) in case of disputes, unresolved affairs between the Suez Canal Company and the Egyptian Government should be settled by arbitration with suitable terms of reference and suitable provisions for the payment of sums found to be due.

Such then is a brief outline of developments up to the end of October when fighting began. When news arrived of the Israeli military moves, the United States requested an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider "The Palestine Question: steps for the Immediate Cessation of the Military Action of Israel in Egypt." The Council met on the morning of October 30. The Secretary-General reported that the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization had already sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel a request for withdrawal of troops and a cease-fire.

On the same day, October 30, the French and United Kingdom Governments delivered to the Israeli and Egyptian diplomatic representatives in London written communications. The outbreak of hostilities, it was said, "threatens to disrupt the freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal, on which the economic life of many nations depends". "The Governments of the United Kingdom and France are resolved to do all in their power to bring about the early cessation of hostilities and to safeguard the free passage of the Canal." Both countries were, therefore, requested to stop all warlike actions forthwith. Israel was asked to withdraw her forces ten miles east of, and Egypt ten miles from, the Canal. In addition, Egypt was asked, "In order to guarantee freedom of transit through the Canal by the ships of all nations, and in order to separate the belligerents, to accept the temporary occupation by Anglo-French forces of key positions at Port Said, Ismailia and Suez". Both Governments were asked to reply within twelve hours; and it was added that, if at the end of that time one or both had not agreed to "comply with the above requirements, United Kingdom and French forces will intervene in whatever strength may be necessary to secure compliance".