

early in December, although it was recognized that actual salvage operations in the section of the Canal under Egyptian control could not begin until the withdrawal of Anglo-French forces had been completed. Immediately after the cease-fire became effective, Anglo-French vessels had started clearing the harbour of Port Said and the northernmost twenty-five miles of the waterway, which were held by United Kingdom and French troops; and by early December a channel navigable by ships of up to 10,000 tons' displacement had been cleared through this section.

Negotiations between the Secretary-General and Egyptian authorities over details of the United Nations clearance operation, particularly with reference to the use of Anglo-French salvage facilities, resulted in agreement as to how the work was to be organized. There was assembled a salvage fleet of vessels under UN control and including units from the Anglo-French fleet. It was understood that these latter would all be "phased out" of the clearing operation by the end of January 1957, at which time the work in the northern part of the Canal would be near completion. The United Nations salvage fleet had begun work at various points throughout the remainder of the Canal on December 28. The question of financing the clearance operation is a complicated and difficult one and was under consideration at the end of the year.

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