

increased, (b) to secure free passage for Israel's shipping in the Suez Canal and the Straits of Tiran, and (c) to prevent incursions into Israel from the Gaza strip. Mr. Ben Gurion rejected a proposal that Jordan should be the object of the attack because this would have involved Israel in a conflict with Jordan's ally the United Kingdom. The Security Council debate on Jordan's appeal had not been completed when the invasion of Egypt began.

For three months Egypt had been heavily engaged in discussions, partly within and partly outside the United Nations, relating to the Suez Canal. By a Presidential decree, issued one week after Anglo-American offers of financial assistance for the Aswan Dam project had been withdrawn, the Egyptian Government declared on July 26 that the Universal Maritime Canal Company was nationalized. The Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States held urgent consultations, and on August 2 announced the convening of an international conference "to establish operating arrangements under an international system designed to assure the continuity of the operation of the Canal as guaranteed by the Convention of 1888, consistently with legitimate Egyptian interests". Twenty-two states were represented at the conference which met in London on August 16. One week later, eighteen of these user governments agreed on a set of proposals for the future operation of the Canal which were conveyed to President Nasser but were not accepted as a basis for negotiation with the users.

On September 12 it was announced that the United Kingdom, France and the United States had agreed on the establishment of an International Users Association (subsequently named the Suez Canal Users' Association) to safeguard the rights of the users of the Canal. Representatives of the eighteen powers met in London from September 19-21 and drew up a declaration establishing this Association.

The Security Council convened on September 26 to consider the Canal question on the strength of items submitted for inscription by the United Kingdom and France on the one hand, and by Egypt on the other. Following 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 unanimously 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;