

SUMMARY OF PLAN OF WORK AND OF RESOURCES FOR ITS EXECUTION

1. The plan of operations covers tasks to be completed in three general stages, making possible the resumption of normal traffic in the Canal. Some of the work at each stage will overlap and thus assist the completion of the following stage.

(a) The first stage covers tasks which would allow transit by vessels of a 25-foot draft (about 10,000 tons). This includes the clearance of nine obstructions and two bridges. It has been estimated that this phase of the work will be completed by early March.

(b) The second stage covers the removal of other obstructions which would make possible the transit of vessels of maximum draft. During this stage, further effective obstructions would be removed from within the main channel and the task is expected to be completed by early May.

(c) The work in the final stage will centre on obstructions which, while not hampering transit traffic, would need to be removed from ports, basins and channels. This stage would also include work in restoration of docks and harbourages to their original condition.

The experience in the salvage operations during the first ten days gives every reason for optimism regarding the meeting of the above schedule.

2. Concurrently with the execution of each stage of the clearance work, the restoration of communications, lighting, and workshop facilities necessary to a safe and effective transit operation will be undertaken.

3. The work will be performed under General Wheeler's direction within the framework of the overall relations established by the agreement on the clearing operations (annex II). The Egyptian Suez Canal Authority, where appropriate, will co-operate in the execution of the established plans to the extent of resources available to it.

4. The salvage resources which will be utilized by the United Nations will consist of:

(a) A fleet, as of January, of thirty-two salvage vessels including supporting tugs with crews drawn from six [sic.] countries: Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

(b) Eleven Anglo/French salvage craft and crews (with four Anglo/French support vessels) on a scheduled basis for the completion of certain specified work already in hand by these vessels in Port Said harbour.

5. General management of the salvage operations proper is in the hands of a consortium consisting of Messrs. L. Smit en Co.'s Internationale Sleepdienst of Rotterdam and Messrs. A/S Em. Svitzers Bjergnings Entreprise of Copenhagen. Restoration of the workshops in Port Said will be undertaken by engineers and staff of the Canal Authority with General Wheeler remaining responsible for supervision and the provision of additional specialists as required. Restoration of communication and lighting requirements will be undertaken by General Wheeler in conjunction with the General Electric Co. of USA and the International Telegraph and Telephone Corporation respectively. Plans for this work will be carried out in collaboration with the Canal Authority to assure the attainment of navigable conditions at each completed stage of the over-all plan. Dredging operations necessary to the immediate navigation needs of the cleared channel at stage 1 and stage 2 of the operation will likewise be put in hand in collaboration with the Canal Authority by General Wheeler, who is currently in consultation with appropriate contracting companies who have the necessary equipment available in the area.