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Gaza Falls, Suez Invaded

The UN made progress this week toward winning a truce in Israeli-Anglo-French warfare against Egypt, after Israel routed Egyptian forces east of the Suez Canal and the British and French invaded the canal zone.

Israeli troops completed their campaign in Egypt October 31-November 5 by occupying the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula to within 10 mi. of the Suez Canal. British and French aircraft attacked Egypt October 31-November 5 in preparation for landings in the Suez Canal Zone which began November 5-6.

Israel, Britain, France and Egypt accepted UN appeals for a cease-fire November 6 after a UN General Assembly emergency session November 4 had approved plans for a UN police force.

Soviet attempts to force joint U.S.-Russian intervention in the Egyptian fighting were rejected by the U.S. and refused consideration by the UN Security Council November 5.

Israel Sweeps Sinai, Gaza

Israel's attack began with simultaneous overland thrusts at Egyptian bases in the Sinai Desert and drops of parachutists behind Egyptian lines 20 mi. from the Suez Canal. The major Sinai campaign was completed

with the link-up of Israeli land forces and paratroops in the vicinity of the canal October 31. [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]

Developments October 31-November 6:

October 31

Israeli troops reached the banks of the Suez Canal and pulled back to the 10-mi. limit imposed by the October 30 British-French ultimatum [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]. Other Israeli units drove toward El Arish, northern Sinai, in an attempt to cut off the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Egypt claimed that Israeli forces had been repulsed in the El Auja (Nitsana) area with "heavy" losses. Israel claimed 4 Egyptian jets shot down, Egypt 10 Israeli planes destroyed. Israeli naval units captured and towed into Haifa the Egyptian frigate Ibrahim el-Awal. The ship had attempted to shell Haifa.

Egyptians Surrender Gaza

November 1-2

Israeli forces attacked in northern Sinai. The Gaza Strip was sealed off from Egypt with the capture of El Arish and Rafah and occupied with the fall of Gaza. (Egyptian resistance in Rafah and Khan Yunis was ended November 2-3.) Major General Mohammed Fuad A'Dajawi, Egypt's 8th Div. commander, surrendered control of Gaza November 2 in talks arranged by a UN truce observer, U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bayard [See 1956 [Middle East: Hammarskjold on Mission: Other Developments](#)]. Israel November 2 claimed the capture of huge quantities of armor, munitions and equipment, and reports November 3 said the Israelis took an estimated 12,000 Egyptian prisoners in the Gaza campaign. Egypt claimed November 1 that 25% of the Israeli Air Force had been destroyed. Israel claimed 10 Egyptian jets downed through November 2.

(Most of 216,000 Arab refugees in the Gaza Strip had remained in camps run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine. Enough food remained to feed the camps for about 6 weeks. A large part of the Gaza Strip's 100,000 non-refugee population was described as destitute and living on Egyptian Government relief. 30 UN truce observers and UNRWA officials were evacuated from the area November 3 by the U.S. Navy. They returned November 4.)

Israel Completes Sinai Drive

November 3-4

Israeli forces drove into southern Sinai November 3 and were reported to have reached a point on the Gulf of Suez November 4 after a 135-mi. thrust. Israeli Government spokesmen said November 4 that their troops were facing the Suez Canal opposite El Qantara, Ismailia and Suez. Israeli staff officers said November 4 that "all operations in the Sinai Peninsula have stopped" and "the job is complete." Dispatches November 4 reported that 10 Israelis had been killed by displaced fedayeen since the opening of the campaign. [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]

(Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser announced November 3 that all Egyptian forces were "being withdrawn" from the Sinai Peninsula to defend the Suez Canal against Britain and France.)

November 5-6

Israeli troops overran Egyptian strongpoints in Sherm el Sheikh and Ras Nasrani in southern Sinai. Tiran Island was taken by Israel November 5, assuring control of the Red Sea-Gulf of Aqaba passage for Israeli shipping to the port of Elath. General Moshe Dayan, Israeli Chief of Staff, reviewed troops in Sherm el Sheikh November 6 and told them that 150 Israelis had been killed in the Sinai offensive, but that 5,000 Egyptians had been captured, 2 Egyptian divisions and an armored force destroyed. A cease fire was declared in effect by Israel at 12:45 a.m. November 6.

Ben-Gurion Defends Action

Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion, in a personal message to President Eisenhower October 31, said that Israel was indebted to him for "constant efforts" to ease Middle Eastern tension. Ben-Gurion said that, although Israelis prayed "for fulfillment" of Mr. Eisenhower's goal, the Israeli Government was obligated to defend its population. Ben-Gurion charged that Egyptian President Nasser's "ruthless policy of expansionism and subversive activity" had blocked both U.S. and Israeli desires for peace. Nasser, he said, had "created a unified command of Jordan and Egypt for the purpose of destroying Israel." [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]

Bars Old Armistice Terms

Israel November 2-4 indicated that its troops would not immediately be withdrawn from the Sinai and Gaza areas. Israeli Ambassador-to-Britain Elihu Elath said November 2 that evacuation would be delayed until Egypt gave "tangible guarantees" to "fulfill her obligations under the armistice agreements."

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said November 4 that Israel had "no intention at present" of leaving the Sinai Peninsula and that the 1948 Israeli-Egyptian agreement was "finished and dead." Israeli officials listed among minimum conditions for a peace settlement with Egypt: free passage for Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal and Gulf of Aqaba, an end to the economic blockade against Israel and cessation of all fedayeen activities. The Foreign Ministry said that Israel would tolerate no Western "meddling" in any peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. [See 1956 [Middle East: Britain Asks More UN Mediation: Other Developments](#)]

Suez Invasion Launched

Anglo-French operations to take control of the Suez Canal during the Mid-Eastern crisis began with the launching of air attacks October 31 and were climaxed by paratroop and commando landings November 5-6. Developments:

October 31

Anglo-French air forces under the command of British General Sir Charles Keightley and French Dep. Commander Admiral Pierre Barjot attacked Egyptian and Suez Canal Zone installations and airfields. Cairo radio said that the Anglo-French bombers had struck at Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia and Suez, but British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd denied in the House of Commons that Cairo or any non-military targets had been bombed. [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]

November 1

Egypt broke off diplomatic relations with Britain and France. The Egyptian Government ordered all French and British property, including oil installations, registered with the Finance Ministry for seizure. Egyptian President Nasser broadcast an appeal to Egypt for resistance to the Anglo-French attack. "We shall fight," Nasser said, "from village to village and from place to place because each one of you...is a soldier in the armed forces." [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt: Other Developments](#)]

British and French bombers hit Egyptian airfields in the Suez and Nile Delta areas. Raiding pilots said there had been no Egyptian air opposition. 50 Egyptian aircraft, many of them Soviet-built jets, were reported destroyed on the ground. Egyptian communiques claimed 6 attacking jets were downed and the Egyptian warship Akka (a former U.S. LST) sunk near Lake Timsah, blocking the Suez Canal. French communiques reported an Egyptian destroyer of the Russian Skoryi class attacked and set afire in the Mediterranean. The British Admiralty said that an Egyptian frigate had been sunk in the Gulf of Suez October 31 after ignoring a challenge of the British cruiser Newfoundland.

November 2

Cairo reported that continuing Anglo-French raids had killed more than 100 persons, damaged Cairo and partially destroyed Cairo radio's Voice of Arabia transmitter. The Anglo-French command said that raids were continuing against Egyptian airfields. The Egyptian Army said that Anglo-French aircraft had sunk a large fishing vessel in the Suez Canal, "blocking the entrance" to the waterway at Suez. Suez dispatches reported 14 merchant vessels trapped in the canal and its bypasses.

November 3

Anglo-French forces reported "the virtual destruction of the Egyptian Air Force as a fighting unit." Egypt claimed that 57 British, French and Israeli aircraft had been shot down since the initial Israeli attack on Egypt October 29. The British Admiralty said it had "no information" on Egyptian communiques reporting failure of an Anglo-French landing attempt at the southern end of the canal. Egypt claimed that shore guns and naval units had sunk a troopship, destroyer and landing craft and captured 3 more landing craft in repelling the attempt. Britain charged that Egypt had sunk 5 more vessels in the Canal and blown the El Ferdan railway bridge into the channel.

November 4

Egyptian communiques claimed a 7,000-ton French light cruiser sunk off the Nile Delta November 4 and a British vessel sunk November 3 in the Red Sea. Egypt reported 87 attacking aircraft downed for the period October 29-November 3. Both Egyptian and Anglo-French reports listed heavy attacks on targets in the canal zone and surrounding areas of Egypt. Anglo-French aircraft reportedly concentrated their raids on Egyptian troops occupying Suez Canal defense positions and armor shifting into the canal zone. The British

Foreign Office announced that a British frigate had "shot down an Israeli aircraft which interfered with her patrol" in the Gulf of Suez.

November 5

Anglo-French paratroopers were dropped at the northern end of the Suez Canal and joined battle with Egyptian forces estimated at 3 divisions and an armored force--altogether 100,000 men. British parachutists were reported to have secured key positions in Port Said and at the Gamil airfield, while French forces were concentrated in Port Fuad. Announcements of a cease-fire and Egyptian surrender in Port Said were made by Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden to the House of Commons in London but were contradicted later by Cairo. Egypt claimed that the first wave of Anglo-French paratroopers had been "exterminated" at Port Said. Egypt reported the sinking of a French destroyer in waters south of the Suez Canal.

November 6

Anglo-French commandos landed by sea in the Port Said and Port Fuad areas. Port Said was said to have been overrun by British troops despite Egyptian claims that the city was being defended "house by house." British and French aircraft continued heavy attacks on Egyptian forces massed in the center of the canal zone. The Anglo-French land force was reported to have begun an advance southward toward Ismalia along both banks of the canal. Western communiques reported landing of additional French troops in Port Fuad. The British and French Govts. ordered their forces to cease fire at midnight November 6 in accordance with UN appeals.

U.S. Shuns Involvement

President Eisenhower told the American people October 31 that there would be "no United States involvement in these present [Middle East] hostilities." In a nationwide radio-TV report on the crisis, the President opposed the Anglo-French attack as an action "taken in error" and said that the U.S. had not been "consulted in any way" or "informed" on the impending assault against Egypt. The President conceded that it was the "manifest right of any of these nations to take such decisions" but said that the U.S. had an equal right "to dissent." [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt; Other Developments](#)]

Mr. Eisenhower said that he was "fully aware of the grave anxieties of Israel, of Britain and France," who "have been subjected...to repeated provocations." But, he said, the "action taken can scarcely be reconciled with the principles" of the UN, which still "represents the soundest hope for peace in the world." The President said that the U.S. had gone to the UN to seek a Middle East cease-fire and would press for action before the General Assembly "with no veto operating." At the same time, he said, the U.S. was determined to maintain "our friendship with these nations" (Israel, Britain, France).

Washington dispatches reported November 1 that the Admin. had decided to take no direct action on the Middle Eastern fighting, except through the UN General Assembly, but would not curtail military shipments to France and Great Britain under NATO commitments. White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said November 1 that action in the UN was "one way" in which the U.S. could honor its pledge to assist any victim of aggression in the Middle East. [See 1956 [World News: Jordan Asks UN Session; Other Developments](#)]

The U.S. warned Britain, France, Israel and 5 Arab states receiving Mutual Security Agency arms November 3 against use of U.S. equipment in the Egyptian fighting. British Defense Minister Anthony Head told the House of Commons November 3 that U.S. arms had been "impossible" to "segregate" and already had been used against Egypt by the RAF. Egyptian dispatches reported the downing of a U.S.-supplied Hellcat fighter during an Anglo-French raid on Egypt November 5.

The U.S. State Department November 2 barred all shipments of weapons and military supplies to Israel and Egypt. (Israeli military purchases in the U.S. were said to have totalled \$4 million during the past 16 mos.) State Department spokesman Lincoln White said that there had been "an obvious slowdown" in economic aid both to Israel and Egypt. The State Department reportedly had cut off all aid to Israel October 30.

Reports October 27 said the State Department had ordered shipments resumed to Egypt from an estimated \$20 million backlog in locomotives and other aid for transport projects. [See 1956 [Suez: Nasser Agrees to Talks; Other Developments](#)]

(The State Department said November 5 that 2,521 Americans had been evacuated from Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria but that 2,836 U.S. citizens had decided to remain in the Middle East. The department had banned travel to the 4 countries October 31.)

Soviets Defend Egypt

The Soviet Government October 31 condemned Britain, France and Israel for "armed aggression" against Egypt and demanded immediate UN action to halt their military operations. The Soviet statement charged that the Israeli attack "was calculated to be used as a pretext by the Western powers" to "send their troops" to the Suez Canal. The USSR warned Israel that its actions were "criminal and dangerous, above all for the State of Israel itself." Russia told Britain and France that they must bear the "dangerous consequences" for taking "the road of aggression." [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt; Other Developments](#)] Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin sent President Eisenhower a letter on the Middle East crisis November 1. The letter was said to have outlined Soviet demands for peace as voiced by Foreign Minister Dmitri T. Shepilov at a Belgian Embassy reception in Moscow November 1: an immediate cease-fire, withdrawal of foreign forces and creation of a "control organ" to supervise the withdrawals. In letters from Bulganin to Indian Prime Minister Nehru and from Soviet President Kliment E. Voroshilov to Indonesian President Sukarno November 1, the USSR called for a new Bandung Conference on the Middle East. [See 1956 [Suez: UN Opens Debate; Other Developments](#)] (Voroshilov, at a Moscow reception for visiting Syrian President Shukry al-Kuwatly, said November 3 that the USSR was prepared to give "necessary assistance" to bolster Syria against "the vestiges of colonialism." Al-Kuwatly, back in Syria November 4, said his Moscow talks had been "more than successful.") [See 1956 [Middle East: UN Secretary to Repeat Mission; Other Developments](#)]

UN Assembly Called in Crisis

The UN Security Council in New York voted 7-2 October 31 to call for an emergency session of the General Assembly to consider the "actions undertaken against Egypt." Meeting at the request of Egypt, following the British-French vetoes of 2 Middle East resolutions October 30, the Security Council acted under provisions of the "United for Peace" procedure for Assembly action proposed by ex-U.S. State Secretary Dean Acheson in 1950. The council ignored British and French protests of illegality and adopted the Yugoslav resolution for assembly action without specifying whether it should debate either the Israeli or Anglo-French attacks. [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt; Other Developments](#)] The council's summoning of the General Assembly followed UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's declaration October 31 that he would have appealed for a cease fire on the basis of the vetoed October 30 Soviet resolution [See 1956 [Middle East: Israel Attacks Egypt; Other Developments](#)]. Egyptian UN delegate Omar Loutfi, addressing the council October 31, backed the call for General Assembly action. He said Britain and France had not hesitated "to unleash a war to defend obsolete colonial and selfish interests."

British delegate Sir Pierson Dixon told the Security Council October 31 that the Anglo-French action against Egypt was aimed at halting all military action between Israel and Egypt, separation of the 2 belligerents and protection of the canal. Dixon denied that the invasion of Egypt had been plotted jointly by Britain, France and Israel. He asserted that British relations with Israel had in fact been "strained" and that "it is our firm intention that the Israeli forces" be "withdrawn as soon as possible." Dixon said Britain regarded the Israeli attack as a violation of the armistice.

Soviet delegate Arkady A. Sobolev October 31 denounced the Anglo-French attack on Egypt as "a crude violation of their obligations assumed under the UN Charter."

Iranian delegate Nasrollah Entezam told the council October 31 that the British and French, instead of bringing their case before the Security Council, had "attacked the victim" of "aggression."

U.S. Cease-Fire Plea Passed

The UN General Assembly, meeting in its first full emergency session November 1, overrode British and French objections to approve by 62-2 an agenda calling for debate on the Egyptian fighting. U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles presented a draft resolution calling on "all parties now involved in hostilities in the area" to "agree to an immediate cease-fire" and "halt the movement of military forces and arms into the area." The U.S. resolution, a softened version of that presented to the Security Council October 30, was approved by the assembly early November 2 by 64-5.

Dulles told the assembly November 1 that he spoke with "heavy heart" because the U.S. "finds itself unable to agree with 3 nations [Britain, France, Israel] with whom it has ties, deep friendship...and respect." Dulles warned that if nations were to retain "the right" to "resort to force" whenever they felt "subject to injustice," we "would have, I fear, torn this [UN] Charter into shreds and the world would again be a world of anarchy." He conceded that "there needs to be something better than the uneasy [Arab-Israeli] armistices," but "the first thing is to stop the fighting."

Britain, Egypt Heard

British delegate Dixon defended the Anglo-French operations against Egypt as necessary "to prevent a war between Israel and Egypt, which would only lead to a general conflagration throughout the Middle East." Dixon charged that Egypt and the USSR had blocked all efforts at settlement of the Arab-Israeli and Suez Canal disputes--the USSR by "a cynical misuse of their veto power." Dixon said that Britain and France would be "pleased" if the UN "were willing to take over the physical task of maintaining peace in the area." But, he warned, "there must" be "police action" to "separate the belligerents and to stop hostilities." Egyptian delegate Loutfi charged that the Anglo-British actions had in fact subjected Egypt "to bloody aggression." He asserted that Israel, Britain and France had violated both the UN Charter and the 1888 Suez Canal Convention. He denied the right of Britain and France to intervene in the Israeli-Egyptian fighting and said that, under the 1888 Convention, "Egypt alone [has] the right to take measures for the defense of the canal." Loutfi called on the assembly to "condemn the aggressors."

Fact-Finding Group Named

UN Secretary General Hammarskjold November 2 named a 3-man committee to check on the British, French and Israeli response to the assembly's appeal for a cease-fire. Named to the group: UN Undersecys. Ralph J. Bunche (U.S.) and Ilya S. Tchernychev (USSR) and UN legal counsel Constantin Stavropoulos (Greece). Hammarskjold urged all assembly members to submit "concrete proposals" designed to bring "peace with justice for all the harassed peoples in the region."

Britain, France Reject Appeal

Britain and France rejected the UN assembly cease-fire appeal November 3 An Anglo-French policy statement on the Middle East, read in the British House of Commons by Prime Minister Eden, said that the 2 powers "maintain their view that police action must be carried through urgently to stop the hostilities which are now threatening the Suez Canal." The statement asserted that only police action could "pave the way for a definite settlement of the Arab-Israeli war."

Britain and France said that they "would most willingly stop military action" on condition that: (1) "Both the Egyptian and Israeli Govts. agree to accept a UN force to protect the peace." (2) The UN "maintain such a force until an Arab-Israeli peace settlement is reached and until satisfactory arrangements" had been made for the Suez Canal, "both agreements to be guaranteed by the UN." (3) Until a UN force was ready to take over, Egypt and Israel let "limited detachments of Anglo-French troops" "be stationed between the combatants."

Assembly Favors Police Force

The General Assembly, continuing its emergency session on the Middle East, voted 57-0 early November 4 to approve a Canadian resolution asking Secretary General Hammarskjold to submit a plan for an "emergency international UN force" to obtain and supervise a Middle Eastern cease-fire. The resolution, submitted by Canadian External Affairs Secretary Lester B. Pearson, directed Hammarskjold to report to the assembly on creation of the force, which would be set up "with consent of the nations concerned." The assembly then approved, 59-5, a 2d resolution sponsored by 19 Asian-African bloc nations renewing the assembly's cease-fire appeal and directing compliance within 12 hours.

(Israeli Ambassador-to-U.S. Abba S. Eban told the assembly early November 4 that Israel would accept the UN cease-fire if Egypt also would indicate agreement. Eban warned, however, that the plans for a UN police force had been studied for years without success. Egypt reportedly had told Hammarskjold earlier November 4 that it would agree to a cease-fire on condition that the "attacking armies" halted their "aggression.")

The Canadian resolution on creation of a UN force was passed after the assembly by-passed 2 U.S. resolutions for permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli and Suez Canal disputes. The U.S. resolution on Palestine asked that the UN Conciliation Com. for Palestine be abolished and a 5-member committee negotiate with Israel and the Arab states on a possible solution. The Suez settlement proposed called for a UN committee on Suez to take steps to reopen the canal and prepare a plan in consultation with Egypt, Britain and France for its operation.

UN Force Created Under Burns

The General Assembly reconvened November 4-5 to hear Hammarskjold report on the proposed UN emergency force. The assembly voted 57-0 early November 5 to approve a resolution creating a UN Command Force and naming Major General E. L. M. Burns (Canada), UN Truce Supervision Organization head, as chief of the UN force. Approval of the resolution, submitted by Canada, Norway and Colombia,

came after Hammarskjold had urged the assembly late November 4 to act without waiting for his full report on the project. Hammarskjold made a report that Colombia, Norway and New Zealand had pledged participation in the force, and that other nations had submitted the question to their parliaments. He urged that Burns be named UN force chief "on an emergency basis" and be authorized to recruit a "small staff" of officers from UN truce supervision teams in the Middle East and additional officers "directly from various member states"--none from the permanent members of the Security Council (U.S., Britain, France, USSR, National China). U.S. Ambassador-to-UN Lodge said November 5 that the U.S. would aid the UN force "as regards airlifts, shipping transport and supplies."

Bulganin for U.S.-Communist Force

Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin, in notes November 5 to President Eisenhower and Premiers Eden, Mollet and Ben-Gurion, said the USSR was prepared to use force to "crush the aggressors and restore peace" in the Mid-East.

Bulganin told President Eisenhower that the U.S. and USSR, as Security Council members and possessors of "all modern types of arms, including the atomic and hydrogen weapons," bore "particular responsibility for stopping war." He proposed that American and Soviet air and naval forces be combined in the Mid-East, "backed by a UN decision," as a "sure guarantee of ending the aggression against" Egypt.

Bulganin wrote Eden of his proposal for U.S.-Soviet action and told Mollet to consider "the position of France if she were attacked" by "states having...modern and terrible" weapons. Bulganin warned Ben-Gurion that Israel's attack on Egypt was "sowing such hatred" for Israel as to "place in jeopardy" its "very existence."

Russia had sent Britain and France notes of formal protest November 4 against the bombing of Egypt and closure of the Suez Canal. Moscow recalled Ambassador-to-Israel Aleksandr N. Abramov, and Israeli Ambassador-to-USSR Joseph Avidar, visiting Tel Aviv, canceled plans to return to Moscow November 5.

U.S., Britain Reject Proposal

A White House statement November 5 rejected Bulganin's suggestion of joint U.S.-Soviet intervention by force in Egypt as "unthinkable" and "an obvious attempt to divert world attention from the Hungarian tragedy." The statement said further intervention in Egypt would contravene the General Assembly's action to establish a UN peace force.

Eden told the House of Commons November 6 that Bulganin's "baseless accusations" had been rejected. Eden said that after its repression of Hungary, Russia was in no position to accuse Britain of "barbaric" action.

Security Council Bars Plan

The UN Security Council refused November 5 to consider a Soviet resolution for UN military intervention, "especially" by the U.S. and USSR, unless fighting ended in Egypt in 12 hrs. and invading forces were withdrawn within 3 days. The Soviet draft envisaged sending "naval and air forces, military units, volunteers...and other forms of assistance" to Egypt, "the victim of aggression." Only the USSR, Iran and Yugoslavia voted to consider the Soviet resolution.

U.S. Ambassador-to-UN Lodge told the council that the Russian plan "would convert Egypt into a still larger battlefield" and run counter to "everything the General Assembly and Secretary General are trying to do" to win a UN-policed cease-fire. Lodge attacked Soviet "cynicism" in decrying the attack on Egypt while practicing "butchery...against the people of Hungary." British delegate Dixon said Russia's plan to pit 2 permanent Security Council members against 2 others was "an impossible proposal."

Soviet delegate Sobolev charged Britain and France with trying to "foist upon the UN a solution of the Palestine and Suez problems through the threat of force." He called Israel "the tool for the unleashing of British-French intervention against Egypt."

Hammarskjold told the Security Council November 5 that progress was being made in winning agreement to UN cease-fire terms. He said Egypt and Israel had accepted them and that Britain and France had indicated they would follow suit after acceptance by Egypt and Israel.

Communists 'Volunteer' for Egypt

Orderly crowd demonstrations were staged outside the British, French and Israeli embassies in Moscow November 5-6 against the invasion of Egypt. The Egyptian Embassy in Moscow reported November 6 that "a number of Soviet reserve officers" had volunteered for service with the Egyptian Army. Moscow Radio carried Egyptian appeals for volunteers November 6. (An Egyptian note to the U.S. November 6 asked for American aid in the form of "volunteers, arms or otherwise.")

British Split on Policy

British Prime Minister Eden defended his Mid-Eastern policies against Laborite attacks in the House of Commons October 31-November 1 and won a 320-253 vote of confidence after a Laborite motion of censure was defeated, 324-255. Leftwing Laborite Aneurin Bevan, in demanding that the impending British-French landing at the Suez Canal be called off, asked whether the Government intended "to bleed Britain to death as France is bleeding to death in Algeria." Eden said he would welcome UN control of the Suez area after an Egyptian-Israeli peace had been assured. The Commons debate was suspended November 1 by House Speaker William S. Morrison after Laborite heckling had drowned out Government speakers. It was the first suspension of the House for disorder since July 23, 1936.

Eden said in a radio-TV talk to Britons November 3 that the British Government had been forced to act in the Middle East to stop a "forest fire" from spreading to "a large war."

Anthony Nutting, 36, State Minister in the Foreign Office and ex-private secretary to Eden, resigned from the Government November 3 because of his "growing disagreement" with Eden's Mid-Eastern policy. Ex-Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill made public November 3 a letter to his Conservative Party district chairman in which he defended British intervention in Egypt as having been forced by Egypt. Churchill said Israel had "erupted against Egypt" under "the gravest provocation." Laborite leader Hugh Gaitskell said in a radio-TV talk November 4, "There was no denying that the large-scale invasion of Egypt was an act of aggression." Bevan, addressing 20,000 persons in Trafalgar Sq., London November 4, demanded Eden's resignation. Police checked a march on No. 10 Downing St. (Eden's official residence) by crowds chanting, "Eden must go."

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Citation:

"Middle East: UN Truce Plea Accepted; Other Developments." *Facts On File World News Digest*: n. pag. *World News Digest*. Facts On File News Services, 6 Nov. 1956. Web. 30 June 2011. <<http://www.2facts.com/article/1956015880>>.

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