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LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1955 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to refer to the case of the Israeli merchant ship Bat Galim which was forcibly detained by Egyptian authorities on 28 September 1954 while preparing to enter the Suez Canal on a voyage from Massawa in Eritrea to Haifa in Israel.

On 13 January, at the last meeting of the Security Council which was held on this matter, the President summed up the general trend of the discussion on the question of free passage in the Suez Canal for the ships and cargoes of all nations. The view of the majority was that the Security Council resolution of 1 September 1951 was of continuing validity and effect and that the question of the Bat Galim should be settled in this context. The President expressed the hope that a continued attitude of conciliation on both sides would bring about an agreement on arrangements for the speedy release of the ship and cargo, which are still in Egyptian detention.

I have the honour to express the hope that you may find it possible, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, to enquire from the Egyptian Government whether it is prepared to agree with Israel on an arrangement for the release of the Bat Galim and its cargo through the Suez Canal in conformity with the provisions of the Security Council resolution of 1 September 1951.

If there is an affirmative response my Government will be ready to discuss with the Egyptian Government the practical steps for putting such an arrangement into effect.

55-04187

I have the honour to request that the contents of this letter be communicated to the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Your Excellency, etc.

(Signed) Abba Eban

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

