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LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ADDRESSED  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency the text of a letter addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to Your Excellency:

"At 4:30 p.m. Greenwich time, the Egyptian Ambassador in London was handed a note by the British Government in which an ultimatum was given to the Government of Egypt to

- (a) stop all warlike actions by land, sea and air;
- (b) withdraw all Egyptian military forces ten miles from the Suez Canal;
- (c) accept occupation of Egyptian territory by British and French forces of key positions at Port Said, Ismailia and Suez.

The ultimatum demands an answer by 6:30 a.m. on the thirty-first of October instant, Cairo time, failing which the Governments of the United Kingdom and France will intervene in whatever strength they may deem necessary to secure compliance.

The Governments of the United Kingdom and of France are taking as a pretext for their actions the present fighting within Egyptian territory between the attacking armed forces from Israel and the defending forces of Egypt.

Neither this nor any other pretext can possibly justify actions taken by the British and French Governments.

This threat of force by the British and French Governments and the imminent danger of, within a few hours from now, British and French armed forces, in flagrant violation of the rights of Egypt and of the Charter of the United Nations, occupying Egyptian territory, impel the Government of Egypt to request the Security Council to be immediately convened to consider this British-French act of aggression.

In the meantime and until the Security Council has taken the necessary measures, Egypt has no choice but to defend itself and safeguard its rights against such aggression.

Sincerely yours,

Mahmoud Fawzi  
Foreign Minister of Egypt."

I have the honour to request that the contents of this letter be circulated as an official Security Council document.

I have the honour to request that the Security Council be convened this evening to consider this letter.

Please accept, Excellency, etc.

(Signed) Omar Loutfi  
Permanent Representative of Egypt  
to the United Nations

