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Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - Middle East - Foreign
Minister Abba Eban in New York - 16 March 1971**

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16 March 71

MR. EBAN'S AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE

Following based on notes of correspondents at Kennedy for the arrival of Mr. Eban today:

1) He will see the SG, but did not specify when.

2) He will make a major policy statement while in the US. Did not say when.

3) Main guarantees for future peace lie in the establishment of secure, recognized boundaries, which must be different from the old, vulnerable armistice lines.

4) To a question on a possible international force - Israel has deep, traumatic, passionate memory of what happened to international assurances, promises and pledged in 1967. "Israel is absolutely determined not to put its future at the disposal of vague or fragile or uncertain solutions." It is normal after a war to create "a territorial situation different from that which led to the war." Israel's "refusal to go back to the old armistice lines is fully in accord with her basic security needs, with international law and resolution 242." It was a reasonable position, which Israel held with the utmost tenacity.

5) Asked if there had been any favourable developments, he cited the ceasefire, the dialogue ("which is not as effective as we might wish"), the eclipse of extreme elements in the Arab world. "If there is patience, tenacity and adherence to principle there could be further progress in the future as well."

6) Asked if Israel would make any concessions, he said "the key word is 'negotiation'". The air was full of ideas, potentialities and options. "What has not existed is concrete negotiation."

7) Asked if he saw any alternatives to physical control of Sharm-el-Sheik, he said Israel's policy was shown in the 26 February document. "I have looked it over and I would not change anything in that document today." It stated accurately Israel's position. Israel had not asked the UAR to OK it or accept conditions in advance. "We are ready for negotiations on all matters mentioned in our document and in the UAR document." If there were no negotiations it would not be because of the Israeli document, but in spite of it. "Our position is flexible; the door is open wide for negotiations on all issues, including the one on boundaries."

Beavan

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16/2/71