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Title **Items-in-Canada - meeting with Paul Martin**

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20 May 1967

STATEMENT BY THE CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
PAUL MARTIN, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH U THANT AT NOON SATURDAY, 20 MAY

"I have had a cordial and far reaching discussion with the Secretary-General regarding the dangerous situation which has arisen in the Middle East concurrently with the withdrawal of UNEF from its positions along the UAR-Israel border. We examined the situation as a whole and explored in particular what steps could now be taken in the United Nations context to secure peace and stability in the area. We agreed that what is to be sought is a restoration of the equilibrium in the Middle East which has been disturbed by the events of the last few days.

"I think it is generally accepted that the United Nations has an important role to play in the situation. It is, of course, still actively involved in the area by means of the UN Truce and Supervisory Organization.

"I am confident, in the light of my conversation with the Secretary-General, that the United Nations is fully engaged in this question and that everything possible is being done to restore calm and work out a peaceful solution.

"I welcome the Secretary-General's decision to visit the area, which I hope may serve to reduce current tensions."

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Press Release from Ottawa, dictated by Col. Trimble,  
Canadian Mission, by phone 20 May 1967

External Affairs Minister Martin announced with great regret Thursday night the death of the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt. As a last desperate attempt to keep the Force in being he proposed to the United Nations and Israel that the peace-keeping operation be shifted to the Israeli side of the tense Israeli-Egyptian frontier. It has always been on the Egyptian side since it was created in 1956 largely on Canada's initiative. Israeli Ambassador, Gershon Avner, last caller on Mr. Martin during a harrassing day told reporters he had transmitted the proposal to Tel Aviv but that it would take his Government several days to deal with it.