

DECLINED TO COMMENT ON SPECULATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT  
EGYPT AIMS TO CLEAR AND REOPEN THE CANAL TO =

P9 =

RESTRICTED NAVIGATION - FOR EXAMPLE, TO SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS  
DOCKED AT PORT SAID AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE WATERWAY-  
IN VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS  
ASIDE, IT MIGHT BE TO ISRAEL'S GAIN WERE THE CANAL TO BE  
REOPENED NOW TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING, THUS STABILIZING =

P10 =

THE CEASE-FIRE POSITION. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS  
OF A CHANGE IN THE EGYPTIAN STAND ON KEEPING THE CANAL CLOSED,  
AND MEANWHILE THE VITAL SECURITY FACTORS AND OBSERVANCE OF  
ISRAEL-EGYPT UNDERTAKINGS CONCERNING THE CANAL ARE  
IN ISRAEL'S VITAL INTEREST. PARA. MR GIDEON RAFAEL, =

P11 =

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DECLARED YESTERDAY  
IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT IF EGYPT IS READY TO REOPEN THE  
CANAL TO SHIPPING OF ALL NATIONS-INCLUDING ISRAEL- ISRAEL  
WILL BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. IN THAT CASE, HE SAID,  
EGYPT SHOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR JARRING THAT =

P12 =

IT HAS DECIDED TO COMPLY WITH THE U. N. DECISIONS OF SEPTEMBER  
1, 1951, AND OF LAST NOVEMBER (THE ADOPTED BRITISH RESOLUTION).  
PARA. EGYPT, MR RAFAEL SAID, MUST ALSO REMOVE POLITICAL  
OBSTRUCTIONS, NOT ONLY PHYSICAL ONES. SHOULD IT EMERGE THAT  
A SOUTHWARD EVACUATION =

P13/26 =

OF THE SHIPS PROVES IMPRACTICAL- ALTHOUGH IT WAS PATENTLY  
~~CLEAR THAT IT WAS TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE- A NEW SITUATION~~  
WOULD ARISE REQUIRING A NEW DISCUSSION. UNQUOTE +

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