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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of the Government of the French Republic, and for the reasons stated in the attached communiqué of the Council of Ministers of France dated 15 May 1957, I have the honour to request you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, to call a meeting of the Council for Monday, 20 May 1957, at 3 p.m. to resume consideration of the following question:

"Situation created by the unilateral action of the Egyptian Government in bringing to an end the system of international operation of the Suez Canal, which was confirmed and completed by the Suez Canal Convention of 1888",

which appears as item 28 in the statement on matters of which the Security Council is seized.

(Signed) G. GEORGES-PICOT

Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of France to  
the United Nations

COMMUNIQUE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FRANCE

dated 15 May 1957

"The French Government has noted with regret the decisions taken by those users of the Suez Canal who have accepted the direct payment of tolls to Egypt, without the latter having furnished them the minimum guarantees concerning free transit through the Canal and the equitable distribution of the monies collected.

The French Government points out that it has always, even when its own higher interests have been at stake, paid heed to the decisions or recommendations of the United Nations. It cannot therefore regard as acceptable, and still less as final, a solution of the Canal problem which is in flagrant contradiction with the six principles unanimously approved by the Security Council in October 1956, as has been recognized by the British Prime Minister and the Secretary of State of the United States.

In the French Government's opinion, it is inadmissible that two standards in international relations should thus be established to the detriment of the democracies and to the benefit of the dictatorships. Experience has shown that such discrimination encourages reckless action and would ultimately imperil world peace.

It therefore wishes to make a last appeal to the United Nations whose authority is now at stake.

It has accordingly decided to seize the Security Council of the matter as soon as possible and to request the Council to call upon Egypt to comply with the six principles of October 1956.

The importance of the answer that is given to France's appeal far transcends that of the Suez Canal problem itself. On its nature will depend the confidence which the peoples can continue to place in the international organizations to which they have entrusted responsibility for maintaining peace and ensuring respect for law and justice."

