

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AFFAIRS

Sixth Meeting



PACCOM011022

POLICY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Policy of the Council of Europe
in the light of recent developments in the
international situation, and in particular
a common European policy towards the East

SUEZ CANAL

Resolution adopted by the Security Council
14th October 1956.

Information Document
prepared by
the Secretariat of the Committee.

The following is the text of the Resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 14th October 1956:

The Security Council,

Noting the declarations made before it and the accounts of the development of the exploratory conversations on the Suez question given by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, France and the United Kingdom;

Agrees that any settlement of the Suez question should meet the following requirements:

- (1) There should be free and open transit through the canal without discrimination, overt or covert - this covers both political and technical aspects;
- (2) The sovereignty of Egypt should be respected;
- (3) The operation of the canal should be insulated from the politics of any country;
- (4) The manner of fixing tolls and charges should be decided by agreement between Egypt and the users;
- (5) A fair proportion of the dues should be allotted to development;
- (6) In case of disputes, unresolved affairs between the Suez Canal Company and the Egyptian Government should be settled by arbitration with suitable terms of reference and suitable provisions for the payment of sums found to be due.

After the adoption of this text, the President put to a vote the second part of the draft Resolution submitted by France and the United Kingdom which was worded as follows:

Considers that the proposals of the eighteen powers correspond to the requirements set out above and are suitably designed to bring about a settlement of the Suez Canal question by peaceful means in conformity with justice;

Notes that the Egyptian Government, while declaring its readiness in the exploratory conversations to accept the principle of organised collaboration between an Egyptian authority and the users, has not yet formulated sufficiently precise proposals to meet the requirements set out above;

Invites the Governments of Egypt, France and the United Kingdom to continue their interchanges and in this connection invites the Egyptian Government to make known promptly its proposals for a system meeting the requirements set out above and providing guarantees to the users not less effective than those sought by the proposals of the eighteen powers;

Considers that, pending the conclusion of an agreement for the definitive settlement of the régime of the Suez Canal on the basis of the requirements set out above, the Suez Canal Users Association, which has been qualified to receive the dues payable by ships belonging to its members, and the competent Egyptian authorities, should cooperate to insure the satisfactory operation of the canal and free and open transit through the canal in accordance with the 1888 convention."

This part of the revised draft Resolution was rejected after the Soviet veto. There were nine votes in favour and two against (USSR and Yugoslavia).
