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**VIENNA INTERNATIONAL
HISTORIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS
(HISTOMUN)**

09 - 13 March 2008

Preparation Paper

Security Council 30 October 1956

Decision on Suez Crisis

A general overview

In July 1956 Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal and triggered a crisis. Despite extensive diplomacy, war soon resulted. Britain and France joined Israel in a coalition against Egypt. Their goals included capturing Sinai and the Suez Canal and toppling the Egyptian government. Before striking, the three nations synchronized their attacks: Israel started the conflict and France and Britain joined two days later. Israel invaded Egypt on 29 October. Israeli paratroops attacked Mitla Pass in western Sinai, with an overland column joining them a day later. After fighting local Egyptian formations, the paratroops advanced into southern Sinai, assisting in the capture of Sharm el-Sheikh, the gateway to the Tiran Straits, thereby relieving the Egyptian blockade of this passage. Israel also attacked northern and central Sinai, where armor and night operations secured an Israeli victory. In the north, Israeli forces encircled key outposts, allowing the subsequent conquest of al-Arish and Gaza. In the central zone, the fortunes of war ebbed and flowed for these days at Egypt's frontier fortifications. Israeli tanks pressured these points on several fronts, forcing their abandonment. Israeli forces subsequently advanced across Sinai, attaining all their goals.

Chronology

1948

- 14 May Israel's creation
- 15 May First Arab-Israeli War erupts

1949

- 31 January Israel and Egypt sign armistice ending First Arab-Israeli War

1951

- 1 September UN SC Res. 95 calling upon Egypt to terminate restrictions on the passage of international commercial shipping and goods through the Suez Canal.

1952

- 23 July Revolutionary Command Council replaces King Farouk in Egypt

1953

- January Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes president of the United States

1954

- July Signing of Anglo-Egyptian Treaty ending British occupation of Egypt

1955

- 28 February Israel raids Gaza
- April Anthony Eden becomes British prime minister
- September Egypt tightens Blockade of Tiran Straits
Egypt announces arms deal with Czechoslovakia
- December Israeli Chief of Staff recommends attacking Sinai
Unsuccessful British attempt to bring Jordan into Baghdad Pact

1956

- 1 March Hussein of Jordan removes General John Glubb as Arab Legion chief
- March United States and Britain launch plan to weaken Egypt
- 19 July United States withdraw loan offer to finance Aswan High Dam
- 26 July Egypt nationalizes Suez Canal
- 10 August Britain and France plan to capture Alexandria; advance on Cairo (operation

“Musketeer”)

11 August	General Charles Keightley designated Supreme Allied Commander
4 September	British government receives information about two Soviet submarines which left the Baltic manned by Russians and Egyptians
9 September	Britain and France change emphasis: operation “Musketeer” becomes Revise
11 September	Eisenhower rules out US involvement in use of force
23 September	Britain and France refer dispute over Suez channel to UN Security Council
24 September	Egypt complains to Security Council about Anglo-French troop concentrations
5 October	Israel develops a plan (Kadesh) for Sinai conquest
22 - 24 October	Sevres meetings: Israel, France, and Britain plan their Egyptian campaign
24 October	Israel mobilizes reserves
25 October	Israel revises Kadesh, in keeping with Sevres meeting
26 October	Israel begins emergency mobilization
	Carriers Bulwark, Eagle, and Arromanches leave Malta
29 October	Israeli forces attack Mitla Pass
	Israeli forces capture Ras an-Nagb
30 October	Israeli forces capture al-Qusaymah
	Israeli forces repulsed at Umm Shihan
	Britain demands Israel and Egypt withdraw 16km(10 miles) from Suez Canal
	Israeli forces reach west flank of Ruafa
	Israeli forces rendezvous near Mitla Pass

Map of Sinai Peninsula



Source: Library of Congress
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/egypt/e_g05_01a.pdf

Links

- Nasser's speech on the Suez Canal and negotiations with Britain and France
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1956Nasser-suez1.html>
- US Library of Congress – Search interface Country Studies: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>
- The Suez Canal A History: http://www.mideastweb.org/suez_canal_history.htm
- Suez Crisis: Key players: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/5195582.stm
- Peter L. Hahn. The Suez Crisis. A Crisis That Changed the Balance of Power in the Middle East.
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0406/ijpe/hahn.htm>

Film Material

- “Suez Canal Seized by Egyptians” Universal International News from 1956/07/30
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgo_KyuTZpY&feature=related
- “Suez Crisis. British, French Rush Warships to Area” Universal International News from 1956/08/06
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IZEY-mtepw&feature=related>
- “Ike Urges Caution on Seizure of Suez” Universal International News from 1956/08/09
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHpmP-DGbyk>

Documents

- UNSC Resolution 95 (1951): <http://www.pogar.org/publications/unresolutions/palestine/sres-95-1951.pdf>

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- Herzog, Chaim: The Arab Israeli Wars. War and Peace in the Middle East from the War of Independence to Lebanon. London et al: 1984