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Denounces Motion, Backed by West, Seeking Transit Through Suez Canal

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 19 — Egypt today denounced a Western-backed resolution calling on her to allow ships bound for Israel to pass through the Suez Canal.

The resolution was presented to the eleven members of the Security Council today by New Zealand and has the backing of the United States, France and Britain. It will come up for debate when the council meets again Tuesday.

The nub of the short resolution is a reaffirmation of a sharply worded 1951 resolution demanding that Egypt allow cargo destined for Israel to go through the international waterway. The resolution expresses "grave concern" that Egypt has not carried out the 1951 motion and calls upon the Cairo Government, in "accordance with its obligations under the Charter," to comply.

Egypt has insisted that she has the right, in self-defense, to close the canal to Israeli traffic. The 1951 resolution denied that "self-defense" contention, and so would the New Zealand motion.

The Egyptian reaction to the New Zealand proposal made it clear that Cairo still regarded demands that she open the canal to Israeli-bound ships as violations of her sovereign rights. Maj. Gen. Abdel Hamid Ghaleb of the Egyptian delegation said:

"The adoption of the New Zealand draft resolution would retard the restoration of peace in the Middle East. The draft resolution is not a hopeful augury for states that are exercising moderation in the application of their sovereign rights."

The resolution constitutes support for the Israeli position that, since the Suez Canal is an international waterway, the Egyptians have no right to close it. The case has been one that has been watched carefully for years by some of the countries whose merchant vessels ran into the restrictions.

But the resolution does not meet the repeated Israeli request that some sort of machinery be set up to see whether Egypt was complying with the council's demand.

It is estimated here that the resolution will receive the seven votes necessary for a majority.

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