CAIRO TO BAR SUEZ TO ISRAEL'S CRAFT
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Says in U. N. It Aims to Block Foe's Agents and Sabotage —Eban Demands Vessel

Special to The New York Times.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 7—Egypt said today that she would not allow Israeli ships to pass through the Suez Canal. She declared that aggressive Israeli acts required this "legitimate defense."

The Egyptian delegate, Omar Loutfi, declared in the Security Council that to allow Israel to use the vital waterway would chance the possibility of saboteurs' being smuggled into Egypt. He also told the maritime powers that Israel could mine the canal or even scuttle a ship in it.

Nowhere did he indicate whether Cairo should release the 500-ton Israeli freighter Bat Galim. But he reiterated his Government's announcement that the ten-man crew and cargo of the seized vessel would be freed. Egypt considers herself still at war with Israel.

Israel cited the Bat Galim seizure in demanding another full-scale debate on her continuing complaint that Egypt was interfering with Israel-bound vessels using the canal.

Eban Cites 'Vindication'

Abba Eban, Israeli Ambassador to Washington, underscored both the broader charges of interference and the "vindication" of the Bat Galim seamen from Egyptian charges that they had fired on and killed Egyptian fishermen. Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Palestine Truce Supervision Organization, rejected these charges last month after on-the-spot investigations.

In view of this, Mr. Eban said, Israel welcomes the freeing of the seamen, but would accept no solution except the "unconditional release" of the ship.

Britain requested time to consider Cairo's announcement, so the Council postponed further hearings of the Suez issue. It was reported that the Western powers hoped an agreement with Egypt for release of the vessel could be reached without another round of charges and countercharges.

Mr. Eban contended that the case was only one "episode" of a policy that had far-reaching consequences, involving the "precious right" of freedom of the seas and the concept that any state controlling a crossroads such as the canal could control commerce. Recalling that 100 years ago this week Ferdinand de Lesseps obtained the concession to build the Suez Canal, Mr. Eban declared it would be a "strange centennial" if the Egyptians' claims to control its traffic were not rejected.

Mr. Loutfi insisted that the Security Council's 1951 resolution on Suez traffic "invited" Egypt to give free transit only to neutral ships. He said Cairo had adopted a tolerant policy toward the passage of neutral vessels going to Israel.

Egypt's right of search and seizure, he added, is covered under the 1888 convention governing free passage through the canal. Egypt's refusal of passage to Israeli vessels is necessary in the "legitimate defense" of the country, the Arab world and all states using the Suez, he added.

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