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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 23—Egypt announced today that she would release the ten-man crew of the seized Israeli freighter Bat Galim on Jan. 1. She also represented herself as prepared to free the vessel and cargo.

The announcement was in a letter to the Security Council made public here a few hours after the Council scheduled a meeting Jan. 4 to review the debate on the Bat Galim.

Israel has complained to the Council that the seizure of the freighter was only one incident of Egypt's policy of interfering with Israel-bound vessels using the Suez waterway. It is expected, therefore, that Israel will continue to press for Council action on her broader complaint, regardless of whether the Bat Galim is released with the cargo and crew.

Egypt's letter, addressed to Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, Council president for December, said that Government authorities were making arrangements to turn the Israeli seamen over to the Israeli-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commisson. A delegation spokesman said the Jan. 1 transfer would take place close to the frontier, near Gaza.

The crew has been in Egypt's custody since Egypt seized the freighter on Sept. 28 near the canal, on charges that the crew had fired on Egyptian fishermen.

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