Report on U.N. Withdrawal Denied
By SAM POPE BREWER Special to The New York Times
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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 5—United Nations sources denied today a news report attributed to "men around President Nasser" that the Egyptian leader had asked for only partial removal of the United Nations emergency force in Sinai and not the total withdrawal ordered, after the request, by Secretary General Thant.

The report was contained in an article by James Reston in Cairo printed in The New York Times today.

Questioners were referred by a spokesman for the Secretary General to the text of his statement to the press over the weekend.

The seventh paragraph says: "It has been alleged in some quarters that the United Arab Republic first requested only the withdrawal of U.N.E.F. from the (armistice demarcation) line and not from United Arab Republic territory. In a practical sense, this is an academic point since U.N.E.F., if it was not stationed actually on the line, would have had no useful function anyway."

The paragraph said that "the only official request received by the Secretary General" was "the one which came from the Foreign Minister of the Government of the United Arab Republic on 18 May 1967, and this very clearly called for the complete withdrawal of U.N.E.F."

In his weekend statement Mr. Thant said:

"The legal considerations are that since U.N.E.F. was introduced on the territory of Egypt on the basis of the consent of the Government of Egypt and by an agreement between Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and President Nasser, that consent was at any time basic to its presence on the territory of Egypt. When that consent was withdrawn—and the United Arab Republic's right to do this could not be questioned —the basis for U.N.E.F.'s presence ceased to exist."

The first word of Egyptian objections to the force's presence was a message to its commander, Maj. Gen. Indar Jit Rikhye of India, on May 17 from Brig. Elz-el-Din Mokhtar, the local Egyptian commander. It asked General Rikhye to "withdraw immediately" the United Nations troops. The Egyptian commander said that his forces were being moved into position to resist possible Israeli aggression "against any Arab country" and that their movements might endanger the United Nations men.

Mr. Thant's report over the weekend said that the "cryptic letter" was rejected "as being both incorrectly directed and unclear in meaning." He stated that position to the permanent representative of the United Arab Republic, Mohamed Awad el-Kony, who gave Mr. Thant a formal message on May 18 confirming the withdrawal demand.

The text said: "The Government of the United Arab Republic has the honor to inform Your Excellency that it has decided to terminate the presence of the United Nations Emergency Force from the territory of the United Arab Republic and Gaza Strip.

"Therefore, I request that the necessary steps be taken for the withdrawal of the force as soon as possible."

Mr. Thant said in his statement over the weekend that although the request for withdrawal "came suddenly and as a surprise, there was nothing new about the question of principle nor about the procedure to be followed by the Secretary General — hence the decision taken by him on May 18, 1967, to comply with the request for the withdrawal of the force."

That request, Mr. Thant said, was "the only official request received by the Secretary General" and "very clearly called for the complete withdrawal" of the force.

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