

NATIONS DISCUSS NEXT SUEZ STEP

President Nasser said good-bye to the ~~members~~ <sup>five-member committee</sup> led by Australian Prime Minister Menzies, and that was the end of the Cairo talks. The Egyptian leader would not accept international control of the Canal. So back to Downing Street, ~~for~~ <sup>give</sup> Mr. Selwyn Lloyd <sup>to hear</sup> the Menzies report, <sup>was</sup> the next move. There, <sup>in Paris</sup> French Premier Mollet and M. Pineau, the Foreign Minister, were welcomed by Sir Anthony. ~~Both~~ Britain and France are at one on the Canal issue. The situation was now, in Mr. Menzies' words, very very grave. And even if he had not said so it could be read in his bearing as he arrived at London Airport.... Saying that his committee's task had been to explain the proposals to President Nasser, Mr. Menzies went on -

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SV I would like to say this, that the Committee, who have worked very, very hard, even though perhaps unsuccessfully, was not given a roving commission. It wasn't a commission of Ambassadors at all. it's task was to take the proposals of the eighteen powers, at the London Conference, put them to the President of Egypt, explain them, illustrate them and to persuade him, if possible, to agree. Well, I think we explained them. I seem to remember having done a great deal of that kind of thing myself in the last few days. We illustrated them, we clarified the points involved, but on the hard central core of principal he would not agree.

GV <sup>arguments, debated arguments, arguments</sup> And the answer to our proposals, after long arguments to and fro, the answer is that Egypt will have nothing to do with any peaceful settlement <sup>^ solution</sup> of the Canal issue which doesn't leave Egypt the sole and undisputed master of the whole of the operations of the Canal, subject only to the 1888 Convention which in a broad way guarantees the freedom of traffic. The freedom which could be set on one side with the greatest of ease by ~~the~~ political management.

SV I think it is a great misfortune that, as a result of this, the world should be thrown back, I began to say precisely the same position it was in before the London Conference began, but at least we have been able to clarify the issues. I believe that the publication of our documents will develop <sup>^ public opinion</sup> on the merits of this matter. ~~It~~ will be undistorted and, therefore, <sup>^ have</sup> have great value for the future.

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and the doc. personal by people all over the world