

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
S/3689  
25 October 1956  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request that the following item should be placed on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Security Council:

- "Military assistance rendered by the Egyptian Government to the rebels in Algeria".

I transmit to you herewith a memorandum setting forth the reasons why the French Government considers it necessary to bring this question before the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Bernard CORNUT-GENTILLE  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of France to the United Nations

MEMORANDUM

On 16 October a vessel bearing the name "SAINT-BRIAVELS" but still registered at Lloyd's under the name ATHOS, flying no flag, was examined by a French warship, the "COMMANDANT DE PIMODAN", off Cap des Trois Fourches in order to inquire about the flag.

Since this examination revealed the absence of any ship's papers other than the articles, and the presence of arms to which the crew and passengers had access, the ATHOS was conducted to the port of Nemours, where the French police and customs authorities found that the vessel was carrying a very large cargo of arms and ammunition (list annexed) and six clandestine passengers.

According to statements by the owner, the master and the wireless operators, the ship was loaded on the night of 3 to 4 October at Alexandria where, after leaving quay No. 30, it was piloted by an Egyptian naval officer in uniform to the military port situated in a "prohibited area". A train of seven carloads of arms was waiting on the dockside. One hundred and fifty military personnel in uniform took part in the loading operations, which lasted four hours. At about 4.30 a.m., piloted by an Egyptian naval officer, the ship was moved to an anchorage in the open roadstead. The Egyptian authorities then carried out various formalities: the crew's passports and miscellaneous papers were impounded. Six passengers were brought aboard and their identity documents were also confiscated. The ship left the Alexandria roadstead at 9 a.m.

According to the same statements, the ship was to have put in at the Baie de Boufades near Cap de l'Agua at the boundary between Morocco and Algeria; fishing boats were to have come to unload the ship; and the arms were intended for the chief of the maquis of Turenne, near Tlemcen.

It was also learned from the investigation that the six clandestine passengers had just attended military training courses in Egypt. One is a radio operator and was trained at the Egyptian Military School of Radio, Dezerna Barracks, Cairo; he was to take part in setting up the radio chain organized by the Algerian maquis. The other five had just attended courses of instruction at Inchas Camp on sabotage courses at the Egyptian Military School, Cairo. The leader of the group carried a letter addressed to the consignee of the arms, namely the chief of the Turenne maquis.

The investigation also revealed that the "SAINT BRIAVELS", formerly ATHOS, a yacht of 345 tons burthen, had been purchased through agents of the Egyptian services in July 1956. IBRAHIM MOHAMED EN NAYAL, its owner, had been working in the "North Africa" section of the Egyptian intelligence services, where he was responsible for arms shipments, for the past three years. From February to September 1955 he had been on mission duty in Spain and Spanish Morocco, where he supervised three large deliveries of arms carried in the yacht "DINA" and intended for the Algerian maquis. He kept in continuous contact with the Egyptian military services.

The foregoing facts provide irrefutable evidence of the direct responsibility of the Egyptian State in the rebellion in Algeria.

The intervention by the Egyptian Government constitutes an attack on French sovereignty in flagrant violation of the fundamental rules of international law which stipulate non-interference in the internal affairs of another State and respect by a State for the sovereignty of other States.

ANNEX

ARMS AND AMMUNITION SEIZED ON BOARD THE ATHOS

ARMS:

Mortars, 3-inch	12
Mortars, 2-inch	63
Canadian rifles, 7/7	1,997
Bayonets for Canadian rifles	152
BERETTA automatic pistols	247
Magazines for BERETTA automatics, large	236
"    "    "    "    , small	248
Machine guns, 7.62, make unknown	6
BREN automatic rifles, 7.7	74
German MO machine guns, 7.92	34
Rifles, make and calibre unknown	255
Belgian rifles, calibre 7.7	20
Italian automatic pistols, calibre 6.5	31
Mortar mountings	43 packages
BREN magazines - curved, 99 cases, or	1,199
- straight	15

AMMUNITION:

276 cases of 1,000 ordinary ball cartridges, 7.7  
50 cases of 1,248 incendiary cartridges, 7.7  
2 cases of 1,350 incendiary cartridges, 7.7  
100 cases of 1,000 ordinary ball cartridges, 7.92  
49 cases of 2,000 cartridges, 9 mm  
1 case, not full, of 9 mm cartridges  
2 cases of 2,500 S and W revolver cartridges, 9 mm  
39 cases of 1,800 cartridges, 11.25  
1 case of 1,000 cartridges, 7.65  
1 case of 1,000 mark 32 M cartridges, 8 mm

AMMUNITION: (cont'd)

- 81 cases of 24 hand grenades, with detonators
- 321 cases of 3 complete rounds for 3-inch mortar
- 7 cases of 12 hollow anti-tank charges
- 107 cases of 12 complete rounds for 2-inch mortar
- 1 case of 2 line-throwing pistols with 4 complete torpedoes

-----

