

Telegram from the British Embassy in Rome on Italian reactions to the nationalisation of the Suez Canal (Rome, 31 July 1956)

Caption: On 31 July 1956, the British Embassy in Rome sends a telegram to the British Foreign Office in which it outlines the reactions in Italy to the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company. The Italian Government expresses its deep concern for its economy and its maritime transport companies.

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Last updated: 01/03/2017

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FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir A. Clarke

No. 508
July 31, 1956.

D. 6.52 p.m. July 31, 1956.
R. 8.28 p.m. July 31, 1956.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 508 of July 31.
Repeated for information Saving to Paris Washington
Cairo P.O.M.E.F.

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My telegram NO. 31 Saving: Suez Canal Company.

The following is translation of statement issued today following discussion by the Italian Cabinet.

"The Italian Government is following with closest attention the situation that has been created with regard to the Suez Canal by laws promulgated by the Egyptian Government nationalizing the Suez Canal Company. The juridical aspects of the question also concern the question of freedom of communication, now existing and internationally guaranteed, between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, which is a vital line of transit for Italy. In the present situation the Italian Government cannot but express its anxiety for any possible harm to the Italian economy, to Italian shipping companies or to private citizens that might arise should the conditions hitherto in force for traffic through the canal be altered".

2. Further report on Press comment follows by bag.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Paris, Washington, Cairo and P.O.M.E.F. as my telegrams Nos. 34, 50, 10 and 10 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Paris, Washington, Cairo and P.O.M.E.F.]

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