

## THE MIDDLE EAST - 1957

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All thoughtful persons are deeply conscious of the tragic events of recent months in the Middle East.

We believe that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula was an expression of moral courage which has created new opportunities for permanent peace in this troubled area of the world. These new opportunities must not be allowed to be crushed by the continued appeasement of blatant and belligerent Nasserism.

Among the many high stakes in the Middle East crisis is the prestige and perhaps the very existence of the United Nations itself. What actions the UN takes within the coming weeks to relieve tensions and to lay the foundations for a permanent peace in the Middle East may well determine whether the world organization will be able to fulfill man's eternal quest for peace.

We believe that the United States must not squander its moral position by the utilization of different standards for small and large nations. Neither must there be an equating of nations which follow a course of moral integrity with those which, like Egypt, ignore these values.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the XXIst Biennial Assembly of NFTS, in convention assembled in Toronto, Canada, April 28-May 2, 1957, on behalf of its United States units, urge the United States to exercise its moral leadership within the United Nations and among the free nations of the world to safeguard the rights of all nations to innocent passage in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba; to secure the renunciation by all parties of the claimed right of belligerency; and to take steps toward the solution of the refugee problem. Above all, we urge U.S. action to insure that the armistice agreements will be used as instruments leading forward to a permanent peace and not backward to the intolerable conditions out of which the present Middle East crisis developed.

*Be it further resolved*, that we urge the United States to use its great moral influence to persuade the Arab powers to sit down with Israel to negotiate the basic issues in this conflict and to create the conditions of a permanent, just peace.