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December 28, 1956

The Hon. Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

In this Christmas season our thoughts most naturally turn to the Holy Land. Yet an intensely disturbing scene greets the eye. The surrounding Middle Eastern nations are involved in bitter controversy. Peace seems most remote from that land whence its tidings were first transmitted. And yet, a time of great hope and promise may also be at hand.

You, more than any other American, Mr. President, confront a question, therefore, which today absorbs the closest attention of all Americans sensitive to the good name of the United States and to the need for world peace.

Simply put, the question is, what will happen in the Middle East when the Anglo-French and Israeli forces will have left Egypt? Will there be a return to Egyptian-directed fedayeen attacks on Israel? Will the Soviet-supported Nasser regime in Egypt continue to threaten the peace and stability of the Middle East, or will there be a genuine attempt to negotiate a settlement of conflicts which brought the world so perilously close to war in October and November?

Much depends, of course, upon what the United States does with its prestige in the Middle East and the United Nations. We believe that now is the time for the United States to use her great influence to help bring about a settlement of Middle Eastern problems.

America's objectives in the Middle East, as we understand them, are fourfold: (1) to assure the independence of each Middle Eastern state, including Israel; (2) to work for the economic well-being of the entire region; (3) to assure the steady flow of Middle Eastern oil so that both those nations which produce it and those which consume it will be guaranteed maximum benefits; and, (4) to insulate the operation of the Suez Canal from the politics of any one country, with the facilities of the Canal available to all nations.