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EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STATUS OF THE SUEZ CHANNEL AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The article describes the process of evolution of the international legal status of the Suez Canal after the Second World War, indicating that at first the legal status of the Suez Canal as a concessionary enterprise was dominant in the absence of the actual formal and real sovereignty of Egypt. With the formal independence of Egypt, there was the possibility of a real step forward in terms of the fact that the Suez Canal de facto became an inalienable property of Egypt, because it was quite on the territory of this state. The strengthening of anti-English sentiment contributed to the preparation of the decree of the Egyptian government to cancel the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936 and the Anglo-Egyptian agreement on condominium 1899 October 15, 1951, this decree was approved by the Egyptian parliament. The document was negatively perceived not only by Great Britain, but also by its allies. However, at this stage they were not yet ready for open intervention and chose the path of diplomatic pressure. Formally, the official purpose of the proposal was organizing the defense of the East in general and Egypt in particular, for which it was proposed to create a Union Middle Eastern Command, which would include: Australia, New Zealand and the South African Union. The document established that England's armed forces withdrew from Egypt within 20 months of the date of signature (Art. 1), and the treaty signed in London on August 26, 1936 was annulled (Art. 2). Both governments recognized that the Suez Canal, which was an integral part of Egypt, was a maritime economic, commercial and strategic route of international importance, and expressed their determination to comply with the conventions signed at Constantinople on 29 October 1888.

It was concluded that at first the status of the Suez Canal as a concessionary enterprise prevailed in the absence of formal and real sovereignty of Egypt. Formal independence in 1922 allowed for a step forward in confirming that the Suez Canal is the inalienable property of Egypt, and only in 1954 was it possible to withdraw the British armed forces from the canal zone as a result of stubborn national liberation and diplomatic struggle and nationalization of the Suez Canal.

Keywords: Suez Canal, international legal status, state independence, nationalization.

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