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# A Weak Sister?1 Macmillan, Suez and the British Economy, July to November, 1956

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# Acknowledgements

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# Notes

[1] ‘There are always weak sisters in any crisis and sometimes they will be found amongst those who were toughest at the outset of the journey’: Eden, Full Circle, 557.

[2] Macmillan, Riding the Storm, 109-11, 122, 127-8.


[3] King's College, London, Liddell Hart Centre for Military Affairs. Transcript of Interview with Sir Frederick Bishop. SUEZOHP 4. 3

[4] [Eden](#)

[5] [Mac](#)

[6] [Butl](#)

[7] [Lloy](#)

[8]  a Treasury paper.

[9] [Kyle](#)

[10] [Kyle](#)

[11] [Sco](#) den, 504, 505, 565 [urpe](#), Eden, 495, 524; Pearson, Eden, 103, 160, 161-3.

[12] [Scott Lucas](#), Divided We Stand, 250-1.

[13] [Horne](#), Harold Macmillan, vol. 1, 1894-1956, 410-1, 415-6, 437, 440-5.

[14] Kyle, Suez, 464-5, 566; Rhodes James, Eden, 573; Carlton, Eden, 453; Dutton, Eden, 442; Thorpe, Eden, 524; Kunz, Economic Diplomacy, 131-3; [Pearson](#), Eden, 162-3; Scott Lucas quotes the correct figure for the loss for the week of \$85 million: Scott Lucas, Suez, 292.

[15] [Kunz](#), 'The Importance of Having Money'; [Kunz](#), Did Macmillan Lie?; Kunz, Economic Diplomacy.

[16] [Kunz](#), Economic Diplomacy, 89, 100-2, 127-8.

[17] [Kunz](#), Economic Diplomacy, 128.

[18] [Kunz](#), Economic Diplomacy, 131-3.

[19] [Johnman](#), 'Defending the Pound'.

[20] National Archives (NA) T 273/380.

[21] Quoted in Fforde, Bank of England, 543.

[22] Bodleian Library, Macmillan Papers, File 303, 15

[23] NA T 273/380, reference 7, Memo of a meeting

[24] NA T 273/380, reference 10, my, image

[25] NA T 273/380, reference 10, image

[26] NA T 273/380, reference 10, image

[27] NA T 273/380, reference 10, ce 7.

[28] NA T 273/380, reference 10, er 1956.

[29] NA T 273/380, reference 10, image

reference 10. This can be read either as 'D minus', or 'D plus' or (if the 'D' is read as a



[41] See, e.g., *Id.*, 27 July 1956, 47, memorandum of a conversation between Dulles, Eisenhower, Dulles, etc., 30 October 1956.

[42] [Boyle](#), Correspondence, letters Eisenhower to Eden dated, 31 July 1956, 156–7, 2 September 1956, 162–3, 8 September 1956, 168, 30 October 1956, 177 and 30 October 1956, 181.

[43] NA PREM 11/1102, 299. Letter, Macmillan to Eden, 26 September 1956. Lord Sherfield, [The Suez Crisis](#), 21. FRUS, vol. XVI, 264. Editorial note, 580.

[44] Macmillan, *Riding the Storm*, 95.

[45] Horne, Macmillan, 373. Horne attributes this to a diary entry of 13 November 1955. This seems unlikely since there is no reference to this in Macmillan, *Diaries* for that date and Macmillan did not finally agree to become Chancellor until 13 December.

[46] Horne, Macmillan, 160.

[47] Macmillan, *Riding the Storm*, 119.

[48] Horne, Macmillan, 433.

[49] Macmillan, *Diaries*, 587.

[50] Conversation with Virginia Makins, Makins' daughter, February 2006.

[51] See, for example, NA FO 800/740, 33. Telegram, 9 September 1956. NA FO 371/120

[52] [She](#)

[53] NA t (EC (56) 11th), 14 (56) 25th), 17 Septe

[54] NA y, 26 August 1956

[55] NA 7 August 1956 (EC g, 28 August 1

[56] NA image referenc



- [57] NA CAB 134/1216, 171. Conclusions of Egypt Committee Meeting, 27 August 1956 (EC (56) 22nd).
- [58] NA T 273/380. Memorandum, Macmillan to Eden, 26 August 1956, image reference 10.
- [59] NA CAB 128/30. Conclusions of Cabinet Meetings, 6 September (CM (56) 63rd), 11 September (CM (56) 64th), 25 October (CM (56) 74th), 2 November (CM (56) 77th) and 4 November (CM (56) 79th).
- [60] NA CAB 128/30, 633. Conclusions of Cabinet Meeting, 3 October 1956 (CM (56) 75th). Johnman refers to a warning given at a Cabinet Meeting on 26 October (Johnman, 'Defending the Pound', 172) but the warning referred to was actually given at the meeting of 20 November, NA CAB 128/30, 675 (CM (56) 85th).
- [61] NA CAB 128/30, Conclusions of Cabinet Meetings, 6 September 1956 (CM (56) 64th), 11 September 1956 (CM (56) 64th), 18 September 1956 (CM (56) 66th), 3 October 1956 (CM (56) 68th), 25 October 1956 (CM (56) 74th), 2 November 1956 (CM (56) 77th) and 4 November 1956 (CM (56) 79th).
- [62] NA T 236/4188, 66. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956.
- [63] NA T 236/4188. 55. Note by France, 31 October 1956. NA T 236/4188, 62. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956. NA T 236/4188, 64. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956.
- [64] Interim Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Suez Crisis, 1956.
- [65] Boycott of Suez Canal, 1956.
- [66] NA T 236/4188, 62. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956. NA T 236/4188, 64. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956.
- [67] K. R. Porter, 'The Suez Crisis', 1956.
- [68] NA T 236/4188, 62. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956. NA T 236/4188, 64. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956.
- [69] Lloyd George, 1956.
- [70] NA T 236/4188, 62. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956. NA T 236/4188, 64. Memorandum Bridges to Brook, 5 November 1956.
- [71] [Fforde](#), Bank of England, 555.

[72] NA T 236/4188, 62. Memorandum ‘Emergency Action’, Rowan to Makins, 2 November 1956, 2.

[73] NA CAB 128/30, 649–50. Cabinet Meeting, 6 November 1956 (CM (56) 80th).

[74] Horne, Macmillan, 441–2.

[75] Macmillan, *Riding the Storm*, 163–4.

[76] Fforde, Bank of England, 564.

[77] Kunz, *Economic Diplomacy*, 252, note 70.

[78] Lloyd, *Suez*, 209.

[79] Eden, *Full Circle*, 557.

[80] Macmillan, *Riding the Storm*, 166–7. The quotation is from Eden, *Full Circle*, 561.

[81] Quoted in Thorpe, Eden, 529.

[82] [Dixon](#), *Double Diploma*, 272. Eden. *Full Circle*, 555–6. Macmillan, *Riding the Storm*, 165. NA CAB 128/30, 650. Cabinet Meeting, 6 November 1956 (CM (56) 80th).

[83] Churchill College, Cambridge, Gordon Walker papers. GNWR 1/13, memo, 23 November 1956 (EC (56) 77th).

[84] Parl Bracken, 6 November 1956,

[85] [Clair](#)

[86]

[87] NA

[88] Kun

[89] NA

[90] Inte



[91] Conversation with the Writer, 6 May 2005.

[92] [Yaqub](#), Containing Arab Nationalism, 57.

[93] Macmillan, Riding the Storm, 106.

[94] Lloyd, Suez, 188. NA FCO 732/05, Image reference 2. 1978 Notes on Sèvres by Sir Patrick Dean, 6. [Heath](#), The Course of My Life, 169.

[95] Macmillan, Riding the Storm, 157.

## Additional information

### Notes on contributors

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Robert Cooper is a retired solicitor reading for a PhD at the University of Nottingham.

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