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BEERSHEBA TAKEN BY ISRAELI ARMY; CEASE-FIRE ORDER ISSUED, CONDITIONAL ON EGYPT'S ACTION

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The major Arab Negev city of Beersheba fell to Israeli forces early this morning, it was officially announced here. Simultaneously, the government informed U.N. headquarters in Palestine that it had issued orders that an effective cease-fire shall go into effect within twelve hours after it is informed by acting mediator Ralph Bunche that the Egyptians have ordered a cease-fire.

Israeli troops in the field, meanwhile, have been instructed to expect a cease-fire order. The government's decision followed an hours-long Cabinet session which began yesterday at 4 P.M., was recessed at 3 A.M. this morning, resumed at 10 A.M. and recessed again at noon to permit Premier David Ben Gurion to meet Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who arrived here yesterday. Shortly after noon the communique was issued. The Israeli communication to the U.N. pointed out that Egypt must bind itself to maintaining a cease-fire among all its forces in the Negev, including irregulars.

Beersheba, southernmost city of ancient Palestine and of the Palestine Arab state envisaged in the U.N. partition decision, was occupied after severe fighting throughout the night. An Israeli communique announcing that the "entire town is in our hands" said that Beersheba was taken "in the course of operations to open the road to the Negev." It also revealed that the nearby Jewish settlements of Bnei Eshel and Nevatim, which were blockaded by the Arabs in an attempt to starve out the colonists, were freed during the operation.

An official spokesman revealed that the Beersheba attack came after several days of softening-up operations and after the majority of the 3,000 inhabitants had fled. The city was carried after a five-and-one-hour frontal attack during which the majority of the battalion-and-a-half of Egyptian troops defending it became casualties or prisoners. The spokesman revealed that the flight of civilians continues from Gaza, and also from Bethlehem and Hebron.

Arabs Continue to Evacuate Villages in Beersheba Region

Another official announcement revealed that the Israeli air force bombed installations at Gaza, El Arish, Beersheba, Majdal and Beit Jibrin again last night in support of Jewish ground forces and in harassment of the Egyptians. Several villages northeast of Beit Jibrin have been evacuated by the Arabs, following fighting in that region. The Jews believe that the evacuation of Beit Natif, one of the villages, was prompted by Arab fear of reprisals at the hands of the Jews. It was Beit Natif villagers who were responsible for the ambush and slaughter of a group of 35 Hagannah men dispatched from Jerusalem to relieve the Kfar Etzion settlement early in the war.

(Meanwhile, United Nations headquarters at Lake Success reported that hostilities were continuing in the Negev today with Jewish planes bombing all fronts. Gaza and Majdal had five air raids during the night and U.N. observers counted 58

bombs dropped by Israeli planes on Gaza. The Egyptians, according to U.N. observers' reports, directed heavy artillery fire on many Jewish positions on the Negev front.)

An air alert was sounded during the night when unidentified aircraft appeared over several places in Israel and dropped some bombs. Damage was slight and there were some injuries, but no deaths as a result of the bombings, it was announced. (The Associated Press reported that Egyptian planes had bombed Tel Aviv and Haifa.) Early today three Egyptian Spitfires were intercepted over El Arish by Jewish planes and one was shot down.

Political observers here today said that the results of the series of Jewish victories were tremendous. First, effective control of the Negev has now been won by the Jews, and the Bernadotte project to strip that huge and potentially fertile area from Israel--which was based on the fact of the Arabs' blockade of Jewish settlements there--is now completely outdated.

Second, the military power of Egypt as the strongest among Israel's enemies now appears to have been broken; third, the bid for power by the Egyptian-sponsored Gaza government is now rendered ridiculous; fourth, the prestige of Transjordan, the sole important Arab state willing to deal with the Jews, will be enhanced by the defeat of its chief political rival in the Arab world; fifth, the prospects of peace have been greatly increased by the fact that the Jewish state is even more firmly established than ever.

BUNCHE SETS NEGEV CEASE-FIRE DEADLINE FOR TODAY; ASKS BOTH SIDES TO INFORM TROOPS

PARIS, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Acting mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche tonight set the deadline for the Negev cease-fire at 1 P.M. Friday Israel time (6 A.M. New York time). He notified Cairo and Tel Aviv simultaneously of his decision.

Conceding that the desire by both governments for prior assurance of the other side's compliance was "understandable," the mediator expressed confidence that both the Israelis and Egyptians would adhere to the new deadline. Bunche's communication asked for immediate confirmation that cease-fire orders had been issued to field commanders.

The message did not include a request to either party to withdraw its troops from their present position. Under the terms of the Security Council resolution of Tuesday withdrawals are to follow negotiations between the two belligerents. At about 7 P.M. Paris time tonight the U.N. attempted to reach Cairo by telephone with the message, but failed because of an air alert. The operator said the "lines are damaged."

The U.N. Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee today deferred for eight days its scheduled discussion of the Arab refugee question, while the Political and Security Committee, having passed on the Mexican proposal for a Big Five reconciliation to a sub-committee, has still to meet to deal with the Bernadotte report on Palestine. Nominally, the Bernadotte report is the next question on the Political Committee agenda.

(During a debate before the Assembly's Legal Committee the French delegate proposed that the U.N. be given the right to intervene against the mass murder of populations only where such killings are sanctioned by states. This proposal immediately brought strong protests from many delegates, who demanded that genocide be considered an international crime whether committed by governments or individuals.)

ARAB FORCES CONTINUE SHELLING JEWISH AREAS IN JERUSALEM; TRUCE OFFICIAL GOES TO PARIS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- "Arab forces last night continued to shell some Jewish areas in Jerusalem and heavy machinegun fire was also directed against our positions in various sectors," an Israeli communique reported today. Enemy activity was concentrated chiefly in the city's southern sectors, the communique stated, adding that "fire was returned by our forces."

The U.N. consular truce commission announced that one of its members, Belgian consul-general, Jean Nieuwenhuys, left for Paris today at the request of Belgian Foreign Minister Henry Spaak, to advise the United Nations on the Palestine question.

MORGENTHAU CONFERS WITH BEN GURION AND KAPLAN ON AID FROM AMERICAN JEWRY

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The problem of additional financial aid from American Jewry for the people of the Jewish state was discussed today at a conference among Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Premier David Ben Gurion, and Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan.

At their meeting here, the Israeli Government leaders warned that the continued growth of the country and Israel's ability to absorb immigrants would be greatly hampered if the flow of contributions from the United States slackened.

Morgenthau, who is the guest of Israeli President Chaim Weizmann on his visit here, expects to confer soon with James G. McDonald, United States special envoy to Israel, and later to visit Jerusalem by way of the so-called "Burma Road."

Speaking at a conference marking the close of the drive for a \$20,000,000 internal loan to the government, Premier Ben Gurion last night declared that the Israeli Government "strongly opposes" continuation of an unlimited truce which does not lead to peace and a solution of the Palestine problem. He asserted that the Jews accepted both U.N. truces not because of military weakness, but because of a desire to strengthen the prestige of the U.N.

However, he pointed out, the U.N. has failed to implement two major conditions of the truce: an adequate water supply for Jerusalem and passage for convoys to the Negev. "Therefore," he said, "we notified the United Nations last Friday that we were sending a convoy to the Negev without Egyptian consent and the Israeli Army was ordered to open a way by any means. The way is now open." He declared that the situation in the Negev was "now reversed" and that the Egyptians "must now rely on our 'grace' to supply their forces in the desert."

"We do not underrate the November (partition) decision, although the United Nations has failed to implement it," the Israeli Premier stated. He added that the Security Council ordered the first truce when it saw that "young Israel was capable of rooting out the combined Arab armies. We are fighting on two fronts--military and political--and must win on both for Israel's future," he concluded.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL EXECUTIVE ACCEPTS MONTOR'S RESIGNATION AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the United Palestine Appeal today accepted the resignation of Henry Montor, executive director of the U.P.A., by a vote of 14 to 1. Four members of the executive abstained from voting.

At a meeting of the U.P.A. Board last week Montor declared that in tendering his resignation to the United Palestine Appeal he was also resigning as executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Under today's action of the U.P.A. executive, Montor's resignation becomes effective immediately.