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U.N. MEDIATOR CONSULTS JEWS AND ARABS ON PLAN TO SPLIT NEGEV BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT

PARIS, Nov. 11. (JTA) -- Acting mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche today consulted with both Jewish and Arab representatives here to secure their reactions to his proposals for a truce in the Negev, including a new secret plan for giving Egypt control of more than half the desert region, it was learned here today.

The latest detail of his proposals, contained in a secret memorandum drafted yesterday after he testified before the Security Council, would invite the Egyptians to occupy Kurnubo, a village strategically placed along the 31st parallel. This would give the Egyptians clear control of all the territory south of the 31st parallel which if extended eastward cuts into Transjordan at about the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

Kurnubo has often been mentioned as the northern extremity of a strip of the desert to be ceded to the Arabs instead of the whole Negev as suggested by Count Bernadotte. Acceptance of this offer would in no way preclude British and Arab demands that Israel retreat from its present positions in the Negev.

Security Council Sub-Committee Meets with U.N. Mediator today on Negev Issue

The seven-member Security Council sub-committee established by the Anglo-Chinese-American sanctions resolution to "advise" the acting mediator will hold its second meeting with Dr. Bunche and his aides tomorrow. At yesterday's session, the group's first, the acting mediator presented tentative truce lines to be established in the Negev.

His proposals were explained in detail by American Brig. Gen. William Riley, his chief of staff, and two other members of U.N. military staff observation headquarters in Palestine. The Soviet delegate suggested that the Jews and Arabs be invited to attend the sub-committee's sessions in order to present their points of view, but the British and French delegates insisted that they not be invited until a later stage in the talks. The Colombian representative was elected chairman of the body.

Dr. Bunche's overall plan for establishing peace in the Negev is believed by political observers here to provide for the withdrawal by the Israeli forces from their present positions in the desert to the lines they held on Oct. 14. The Arabs would not be permitted, under Bunche's plan, to move into their old positions but would remain where they are now--thus creating a "neutral" zone under U.N. administration between the two forces. The Jewish settlements within the "neutral" zone would have their own civil administration, while the Jewish-held city of Beersheba would be demilitarized and ruled by an Arab governor.

During the discussion of the plan before yesterday's closed session of the Council, it has been learned, the Soviet and French delegates raised the question of who was the aggressor in the recent Negev battle. In reply to the Russian's question of how long the Israelis waited to break through the Egyptian lines after the Jewish settlements were cut off, Gen. Riley said: "One month and two days." At this point

the Frenchman said that he had originally thought the Jews were the aggressors but that he was now of the opposite opinion.

It was also learned that the U.S.S.R. will propose an amendment to Dr. Bunche's proposal calling for a peace settlement rather than just an armistice and that she will continue her opposition to the creation of "neutral" zones. The Soviet delegate will also renew his country's call upon both belligerents to negotiate directly. The French delegate is expected to formally present the acting mediator's plan to the Council because Dr. Bunche is not empowered to introduce resolutions.

It was decided at the Council's last meeting to hold further discussions of the Bunche plan at open sessions and the Council President was instructed to call the next meeting at his discretion. It has not yet been scheduled.

ISRAEL DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY U.N. PARTITION DECISION, BEN GURION DECLARES

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11. (JTA) -- "We are no longer bound by the United Nations partition decision of November 29," Premier David Ben Gurion today declared in a written reply in the State Council answering questions by Arish Altman, leader of the Palestine Revisionist Party. A debate on foreign policy, scheduled to be held in the Council today, was postponed until some time next week because of the departure for Paris of Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok and developments at the U.N. in Paris.

The Council decided today, by a vote of 19-7, against giving voting rights to DP's still interned on Cyprus. The balloting followed Ben Gurion's explanation that if the Cyprus prisoners were enfranchised while they were still outside Israel, Arabs not now residing in Israel could question the validity of the national elections on the grounds that they were excluded from voting. He regretted that the Cyprus Jews and Israeli representatives abroad were excluded from voting, but said that he considered it much more important that the principle of only residents voting be maintained.

Soviet Minister Pavel Yershov for the first time last night addressed a public meeting in Israel. The meeting was arranged by the League for Friendship with the U.S.S.R. on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Soviet revolution. Yershov said that Russia supported Israel because this was in line with its policy of peace and of support of the peace-loving nations aspiring to freedom. Other speakers included Ministers Itzhak Gruenbaum, David Remez and Aaron Zisling, labor leader Zalman Rubashov and the Polish and Czech consuls.

Israeli Press Reports New Details on Presence of British Troops in Palestine

The local afternoon press today reported new details of the presence of British troops in Palestine. The reports said that a British military column which included 40 armored cars and 300 escorting troops has been seen on Palestine soil.

U.N. headquarters in Haifa yesterday reported to acting mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche in Paris the arrest on the Negev of two U.N. observers and their transportation by Israeli military police to Tel Aviv where they were identified by local U.N. officials and released. The observers were on duty in the area of the Iraq Suwidan police station when the Egyptians attempted to break out of their encircled positions. The Jews replied to the Egyptian action with artillery, tanks and planes, and the Israeli liaison officer assigned to the observers declined to go any closer to the fighting.

The observers went on alone, in contradiction of front line custom during the truce, and were subsequently picked up by military police who held them captive for about an hour in the vicinity of the fighting, giving them an opportunity to watch the action. An Israeli spokesman in Tel Aviv today said that the observers' action was very serious, since some months ago another observer was killed in a mined area when he pushed on despite the warnings of Israeli liaison officers.