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ISRAEL FORCES PRESS FORWARD; SEEK TO SEVER GAZA STRIP FROM EGYPT

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Israel forces pressed forward relentlessly today in the Sinai Peninsula as Egyptian land, sea and air forces tried to stem their advance and carry the battle to the heart of Israel territory.

An Egyptian attempt to cripple Israel's supply services by bombarding Haifa, the country's chief port, ended ignominiously today when an Egyptian naval frigate, the *Ibrahim Awal*, was shelled into surrender when it opened fire on port installations. The frigate, originally a British naval unit which was recently reconditioned, will be added to the Israel naval forces. Its crew of 250 was to be sent off to a prisoner of war camp.

In the air, Israel's young air force claimed seven Egyptian victims--four MIG-15s acquired by Egypt from Czechoslovakia, and three British-built Vampire jet fighters. One Israel fighter was damaged in the series of air clashes but returned to its base.

Terse Israel communiques today gave the first real clues to Israel's military objectives. They emerged not as the Suez Canal zone but as a clean-up of the entire Egypt-Israel border and the liquidation of the so-called Gaza Strip--the long narrow finger of Palestine territory stretching from the border along the Mediterranean coast to within a few miles of Tel Aviv. This narrow coastal area has been the base from which hundreds of attacks have been made on Israel and its control by Egypt made it a dagger penetrating deep into Israel.

Yesterday, the Israel land forces, with air support, captured the vital junction of Kusseima, about 10 miles inside the Egyptian frontier and directly below the El Auja-Nitzana demilitarized zone. To reach this point, the Israelis swept some 70 miles through Egyptian territory from their take-off point just above the port of Elath on the Gulf of Akaba.

Today, the Israelis pressed on to the west, aiming at the Mediterranean coast, severing the Gaza Strip from Egypt proper. Israel land units were reported in combat today with Egyptian defenders near Abu Ageila, midway between Kusseima and El Arish on the coast, a key point on the rail line from Gaza port to Ismailia on the Suez Canal.

(In Washington, word has been received by government officials that an Israel armored task force has driven completely across the Gaza Strip to the Mediterranean Sea, isolating important units of the Egyptian Army which are now surrounded.)

The Voice of Israel radio broadcast warnings to the Arabs of the Gaza Strip throughout the day today, telling them that the zone would soon be completely encircled by Israel forces and that they should quietly await further instructions. Nearly a quarter of a million Arabs--the overwhelming majority of them refugees from the Arab-Israel war of 1949--are jammed into the tiny Gaza area.

Reach Positions Within Ten Miles of Suez Canal

Israel's military command was sparing in its information as to the direction of the army's moves and the zones of combat. It indicated today that there was heavy fighting at points in the Sinai Peninsula and also indicated that Israel forces had reached positions within ten miles of the Suez Canal.

An exodus of Arab refugees from the Sinai areas now held by the Israelis was reported today. Army units engaged in mopping up operations, were rounding up prisoners in the Kusseima area but were not molesting the civilians fleeing towards Egypt. Masses of Arab refugees were reported piling on foot towards Egypt along the right-of-way of a disused railway built by the British in the first World War.

Meanwhile, it was reported over the Cairo radio that British jet bombers are attacking Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez simultaneously. Fires are burning in a number of places. (In London, Reuters reported that immediately before the Anglo-French operation began, Israel air force planes destroyed "scores" of Egyptian tanks and military vehicles in attacks on convoys east of Ismailia on the Suez Canal. The convoys were moving reinforcements preparing for action against the Anglo-French forces.)

THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS WITNESS NAVAL BATTLE; EGYPTIAN SHIP CAPTURED

HAIFA, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Tens of thousands of Israelis witnessed a dawn naval engagement, the first of the present hostilities, as Israeli vessels, shore installations and rocket firing jet planes quickly subdued an Egyptian frigate which shelled the Haifa Bay area in the pre-daylight hours this morning.

While men, women and children who had watched the battle cheered themselves hoarse, the frigate Ibrahim Awal struck its colors and ran up a white flag. Shortly thereafter tugs began nudging the former British escort destroyer into port. This first prize of the two-day-old war also brought Israel 250 prisoners, her entire complement. The vessel is of the same class as several frigates which Israel purchased from Britain and can be put to immediate use by the Israel Navy.

Haifa residents were routed out of bed in the blacked out city as the Ibrahim Awal loosed her first salvos. Half ran for air raid shelters, but the remainder crowded onto every available rooftop and remained there until long after the battle was over.

The Egyptian warship came in to within two miles of the shore before opening fire in what appeared to be a desperate attempt to inflict damage on the facilities of Israel's major deepwater port and to terrorize the inhabitants of Israel's third largest city. Israeli batteries responded within minutes of the first Egyptian shots and the sky was lit-up by the crisscrossing flash of shells and the glare of rockets. By daylight, the Israelis had scored hits on the frigate which sealed her fate.

An Israel communique after the engagement revealed that the Egyptian gunners had caused no casualties in Haifa. Nor did they inflict damage on property, according to Israeli spokesmen, although the concussion of shots fired by both sides had shattered some windows.

OVER-ALL PICTURE OF ISRAELI ADVANCE IN SINAI GIVEN IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The over-all picture of the Israeli advance in the Sinai Peninsula began to emerge here today as it was pieced together from fragmentary local reports and various official British statements, in the absence of any official Israeli statements covering the entire Sinai operation.

The Israel Army's swift advance in the peninsula was highly praised by military experts. The advancing units had to overcome considerable topographic difficulty in order to secure two non-stop operations--the advance of the units themselves and the movement of the supply convoys necessary to those units.

The Israeli force, starting its advance on Monday, reached the Suez Canal area in a one-day drive--some 230 kilometers from Kuntilla and Ras el Naqeb, two strong points near Israel's southern borders which were taken by the Israeli troops at the very beginning of the operation. It was also pointed out that the old good weather track leading through Nakhl, in the peninsula, passes through wadis cutting through high, bare mountains.

Meanwhile the Israelis were said to have dropped paratroopers in the Suez area, according to a report made to the House of Commons in London Tuesday by Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden. Such an operation was considered here to be very daring, in view of the distance of the drop point from Israel itself.

At the same time, Israeli ground forces began to wipe out small Egyptian pockets of resistance left behind during their initial advance. Israeli forces also captured Kusse, an Egyptian stronghold and crossroads about 10 kilometers from the Israeli border of Nitzana (El Auja)--thus placing relatively significant numbers of Egyptian troops in pockets cut off from the main Egyptian strength closer to Suez.

Indications were that the Israelis were now shifting their attempts at advance towards the West, in order to pin down the main Egyptian force, which is still on the Eastern bank of the Suez Canal. Convoys starting out from the bases of that main Egyptian force have already come under strafing attack by the Israel Air Force, which was said to have excelled in the first full day since it had been extensively committed to a role in the Sinai operation.

ISRAEL CITY WORKERS TO REPLACE MOBILIZED FARMERS DURING CRISIS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The Histadrut, Israel's general federation of labor, decided today to increase the working day for all organized Israelis by one hour for the duration of the present emergency.

The Histadrut executive is also drawing up plans for the replacement of mobilized farmers by workers from cities and towns in order to continue food production. At the same time, Kupat Holim--the Histadrut health network--announced that it is placing all its medical facilities at the disposal of the state.

WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSES POSSIBLE ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey was summoned to the White House today to discuss possible economic measures against Israel as part of a series of contemplated U.S. acts in the Egyptian-Israeli conflict. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles also met with President Eisenhower this morning on the situation in Egypt.

A U.S. Export-Import Bank mission scheduled to leave yesterday for Israel to study Israel's application for a \$75,000,000 irrigation loan did not leave because of the present Middle Eastern situation. This was learned from Export-Import Bank sources today. It is believed that the mission will not be sent until the present crisis subsides.

The White House said today that the United States is still standing by its pledge to assist any victim of aggression in the Middle East. White House spokesman James Hagerty made the statement in reply to a question. He was asked if the United States would abide by its 1950 pledge despite the British and French stand.

The State Department made known today that it is considering calling for an emergency meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to take up the Egyptian issue. It was indicated that this step was being discussed among other possible measures.

BEN GURION SENDS MESSAGE TO EISENHOWER; GIVES ISRAEL'S VIEW

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, in a message to President Eisenhower, explained that Israel's action was dictated by the necessity to defend the lives of its people. It was reported here today.

The Israeli leader's message was reported to have condemned Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, saying that his policies had blocked peace efforts by both the United States and Israel. At the same time, Mr. Ben Gurion was understood to have expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Eisenhower for his efforts to lessen tension in the Middle East.

The reports of the Ben Gurion message said that the Israel Premier had cited the setting-up of a tripartite Arab military pact as a threat to Israel and as evidence of Nasser's intention to wipe out Israel. He was said to have added that the Egyptian dictator had evidently felt free to carry out his threats against Israel ever since the Security Council concluded its consideration of the Suez Canal question.

EISENHOWER SAYS ISRAEL, BRITAIN, FRANCE ACTED "IN ERROR"

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower tonight made known it is "the hope and intent" of the United States Government that the Israel, British, and French actions in Egypt be brought before the United Nations General Assembly.

"There," said Mr. Eisenhower, "with no veto operating--the opinion of the world can be brought to bear in our quest for a just end to this tormenting problem. In the past the United Nations has proved able to find a way to end bloodshed. We believe it can and will do so again."

Speaking to a national radio-TV audience, the President said there would be no U.S. involvement in the present hostilities. "I therefore have no plan to call the Congress in special session," Mr. Eisenhower said.

Mr. Eisenhower expressed belief that the Israel, British, and French actions "have been taken in error. For we do not accept the use of force as a wise or proper instrument for the settlement of international disputes. To say this--in this particular instance--is in no way to minimize our friendship with these nations--nor our determination to retain and to strengthen the bonds among us."

"And," he said, "we are fully aware of the grave anxieties of Israel, of Britain, and of France. We know that they have been subjected to grave and repeated provocations. The present fact, nonetheless, seems clear: the actions taken can scarcely be reconciled with the principles and purposes of the United Nations to which we have all subscribed. And, beyond this, we are forced to doubt even if resort to war will for long serve the permanent interests of the attacking nations."

Mr. Eisenhower reviewed the actions by the three countries against Egypt and said "the United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of these actions. Nor were we informed of them in advance."

In his review of events leading up to the present situation, Mr. Eisenhower said the Arab-Israel situation recently "was aggravated needlessly by an Egyptian policy including teamwork with Communist weapons. We, for our part, felt this to be a misguided policy on the part of the government of Egypt."

Mr. Eisenhower said "we have considered it a basic matter of United States policy to support the new State of Israel and--at the same time--to strengthen our bonds with Israel and with the Arab countries. But, unfortunately, through all these years, passion in the area threatened to prevail over peaceful purpose, and, in one form or another, there has been almost continuous fighting."

STATE DEPT. BANS TRAVEL TO ISRAEL; U.S. ZIONIST LEADERS AFFECTED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The United States Government today banned all travel by American citizens to Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. State Department sources indicated that American Zionist leaders would be prohibited from visiting Israel unless they can establish to the State Department's satisfaction that their trip is in "the best interest of the United States."

Earlier, the Defense Department announced that cargo-type ships under protection of two U.S. Navy destroyers have been ordered to stand by at Haifa to remove U.S. citizens. A total of 546 Americans have been evacuated by air, the State Department said.

Reports reaching here from Tel Aviv indicated that evacuation of United States citizens from Israel went ahead at full speed today. Some 500 Americans--including many family members of personnel at the U.S. Embassy and of the U.S. Operations Mission--were evacuated.

At the same time, many American tourists left the country aboard six U.S. Air Force planes which flew into Lydda for the special evacuation airlift. Two more American airplanes were expected to continue that airlift. Only one American ship--a destroyer--reached Haifa today for the evacuation of American nationals. Two other ships--scheduled to be in Haifa today--had not yet arrived.

MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS APPEAL TO U.S. TO FAVOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Sixteen major American Jewish organizations today issued a joint statement appealing to the United States Government to take into consideration the fact that the Egyptian ruler Col. Nasser has demonstrated "implacable hostility" to the Western democracies while Israel has demonstrated basic identity with the free world. The statement, adopted at the conclusion of a two-day emergency meeting on the developments in the Middle East, reads:

"We regret the bloodshed and loss of life in the Middle East and are in accord with our government's expressed desire for a just and lasting peace in that region. However, such a peace cannot be achieved without a bold and statesmanlike appraisal of the issues behind the conflict. The time for a fresh appraisal is now. The disclosures and developments before the Security Council have placed in focus the fundamental issue. The conflict in the Middle East is not simply between Egypt and Israel, but between democracy and an expansionist dictatorship, between the free world and Nasserism backed by Moscow.

"The Middle East has been plunged into turmoil by the Egyptian dictator's ambitions for aggrandizement and empire. Under his leadership, Egypt has voluntarily opened itself and the whole Middle East to Soviet penetration and Communist subversion. He has incited nation against nation, peoples against peoples. He has instigated civil war throughout that turbulent region and undermined the stability of existing governments in Asia and Africa. The evil spirit which motivates him revealed itself in all its malice when he told the American people 'may you choke to death on your fury.'

"Over a long period, the Egyptian Government has systematically sought to terrorize the people of Israel. It has sent trained fedayeen into Israel to derail trains, to mine roads, to ambush innocent travelers. The 'commandos' have come like thieves in the night and have murdered citizens on their farms and in their homes. These continuous acts of horror and violence have been accompanied by Egypt's announced intention to annihilate Israel.

"Events have demonstrated Nasser's implacable hostility to the Western democracies. Events have also demonstrated the basic identity of interest of Israel and the free world. It is in our own national interest to recognize this truth and to act upon it.

"We therefore call upon our government to shape its policies and chart its course in the light of these facts and this challenge. We pray that the traditional moral stature of our country may be sustained in this solemn hour. We pray for the restoration of peace in the Middle East and for the freedom and security of Israel and all other peoples in that part of the world."

The joint statement was signed by the following presidents: Dr. Philip M. Bernstein, American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs; Joseph Breslaw, American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel; William Carmen, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.; Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Moses I. Feuerstein, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Dr. Miriam Freund, Hadassah; Dr. Israel Goldstein, American Jewish Congress; Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, Jewish Agency; Adolph Held, Jewish Labor Committee; Rabbi Max Kirshblum, Mizrahi Organization of America; Philip M. Klutznick, B'nai B'rith; Rabbi Irving Miller, American Zionist Council; Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Zionist Organization of America; Charles Rosengarten, United Synagogue of America; Louis Segal, Labor Zionist Organization of America, and Bernard H. Trager, National Community Relations Advisory Council.

ISRAEL MUST SECURE GUARANTEES BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM SINAI, EDEN SAYS

LONDON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden told the House of Commons today that Israel should not be required to withdraw from Egyptian territory without first being given guarantees that its security would be safeguarded.

Facing cheering supporters and a hostile Opposition, Sir Anthony said the British Government thought that the demand for withdrawal contained in the American resolution, which Britain and France had vetoed in the Security Council last night, seemed in the light of immediate events to be a "harsh demand, if it is to stand alone." It could not, he continued, be said to meet in any way the guarantees for Israel's security which had been asked by several members in last night's Council debate.

With official reports of Anglo-French bombing of major military installations and cities in Egypt fresh in the minds of his listeners, Sir Anthony again offered the Egyptian Government an opportunity to halt hostilities and withdraw to a point ten miles from the Suez Canal. He conveyed to the House reports that Israel forces were close to the Canal.

It was the intention of the French and British Governments that their projected separation of the belligerents should result in a settlement which will prevent such a situation from arising periodically in the future, the Prime Minister declared. There is no current Middle East problem that could not have been "settled or bettered but for the hostility and irresponsible policies of Egypt," he continued, and there is no hope of a general settlement as long as Egyptian propaganda and policy continue along its present line.

"What would the future of the Middle East have been if, while denouncing Israel, we had done nothing to check Egyptian actions?" Sir Anthony asked. "The only result would have been warfare, spreading over the whole area and a great increase in strength and influence of the dictator's powers."

He explained that in taking up positions along the Suez Canal, the British and French were not only protecting the waterway but taking up the only practicable line between the combatants, the armistice line being too irregular and too much of a problem for a small force to hold.

BRITISH DELEGATE AT U. N. FORESEES ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Sir Pierson Dixon, chairman of the British delegation here, told the Security Council today that ultimately Israel will have to withdraw its forces from the "neighborhood of the Suez Canal," and that Britain "would not, could not condone Israel occupation of Egypt." Sir Pierson made his statement regarding Israel in the course of answering Soviet charges of "a conspiracy" among Britain, France and Israel.

"In the past few months," Sir Pierson said, "our relations with Israel have been strained. Only a few days ago, the representative of Israel had some sharp words to say here about my words in behalf of Jordan." Declaring that Britain "has no hesitation in regarding the Israel incursion across the Egyptian border as a violation of the armistice agreement," the British delegate said that nevertheless "the danger of a major clash between Israel and Egypt had become more imminent than since the armistice." He hinted broadly that Britain had definite information that Israel faced Arab aggression before it invaded Egypt.

NORWAY EXPRESSES "ANXIETY" OVER ISRAEL'S ENTRANCE INTO SINAI

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Norway views with "deep concern and anxiety the news of the invasion into Egypt of the armed forces of Israel," the chairman of the Norwegian delegation here, Hans Engen, declared today in a letter sent to Henry Cabot Lodge, head of the United States delegation.

The Norwegian Government, Mr. Engen stated, in the letter made public by Mr. Lodge, supports the United States initiative "in bringing the situation in Egypt to the Security Council for prompt action and endorses the steps which the United States Government requested the Security Council to take in order to bring the fighting to an end and restore the peace in the area." The letter expressed also "full support" of the stand on this issue taken by President Eisenhower.

MOSCOW CONDEMNS "AGGRESSIVE ACTION" OF ISRAEL, BRITAIN, FRANCE

LONDON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government today strongly condemned the "aggressive action" of Israel, Britain, and France against Egypt. Russia called for immediate action by the United Nations Security Council in defense of Egypt. The Soviet statement, broadcast over the Moscow radio, said that "Egypt has become the victim of aggression."

HOLLAND ADVISES ALL NETHERLANDS CITIZENS TO LEAVE ISRAEL

THE HAGUE, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The Netherlands Government today instructed its envoy in Jerusalem to advise all Dutch citizens in Israel to return to Holland, it was announced today. The announcement added that, if necessary, the government would provide transportation. There are some 3,000 Dutch nationals in Israel, most of them immigrants. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has suspended all service between Amsterdam and Lydda.

U.S. NEWSPAPERS HOPE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN CONFLICT WILL BE HALTED

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The influential Washington Post and Times-Herald declared editorially today that "this country has an obligation, if the Israelis do not withdraw, to come to Egypt's aid" but it expressed hope that "perhaps the eruption can be quelled without all the dire consequences."

The editorial said that, "because of the innumerable Egyptian provocations to Israel, and because of the justified apprehensions about Nasser, the invasion has caused mixed feelings in the United States. Perhaps what the Israeli act of desperation demonstrates most of all is the inadequacy of international measures to protect nations against indirect aggression of the sort sustained by Israel at Arab hands. It is hard to draw a moral; nevertheless, the military aggression undertaken by Israel constitutes a far graver and more immediate threat to world institutions. International guarantees mean nothing unless they are invoked against aggression from each and every quarter."

The New York Times warned editorially today that the Israel-Egypt conflict "is throwing into the explosive Middle Eastern cauldron not only the whole Arab-Israeli conflict but also the many other issues which have troubled that region and is bringing upon the scene not only the other Arab states, but also the larger powers, with their special and not always identical interests and views."

The editorial voiced the hope that the Israeli-Egyptian conflict "can still be stopped in time and that the new shock it has sent throughout the world will give fresh impetus to efforts to establish a peace in the Middle East more solidly based than the precarious armistice agreements now prevailing in that troubled area."

The New York Herald Tribune also stressed editorially the possible widespread repercussions of the Israel move into Egypt. It declared that despite the "unfortunate" division of opinion among the Western Big Three, "it is still possible to work for a unified stand to restore peace; even after shooting has begun it is possible to achieve a cease-fire, and to secure diplomatic solutions through the UN."

Noted Columnists Defend Israel; Criticize U.S. Policy in Middle East

The Wall Street Journal said today that "this military action of Israel threatens a Middle East war, the end of which no man could foresee. For Israel itself, it threatens not only the risks in war but something else that ought to be especially precious to it -- the good will of the democratic nations of the West."

The New York Journal American came out editorially today in full support of the Eisenhower-Dulles policy. It declared that the "American people should be thankful that President Eisenhower has risen above the timid political considerations of men of lesser stature and has refused to play election-year politics in guiding the nation's policy in the Middle East on a resolute and reasoned course."

The New York Post said today that "the Administration's disastrous Middle Eastern policy has reached its moral and strategic dead end." It declared that "America finds itself deprived of its historic allies and joined in unholy partnership with Russia to make Israel the scapegoat of the current crisis."

A strong defense of the Israel action in invading Egypt was published today by David Lawrence, Washington editor, in his syndicated column. Mr. Lawrence, long a vigorous supporter of Administration policies, catalogued Arab acts of hostility against Israel and declared that "all in all, it's more than a matter of who is or is not the aggressor. It's a question of whether Israel, which depends for its life on shipments to and from the rest of the world, can be strangled by Egypt just because the latter has arbitrarily seized the Suez Canal. Israel's decision to wipe out military units inside Egypt that threaten her territory from points near the border is much more a case of self-defense than it is an act of aggression."

In their syndicated Washington column, the Alsop Brothers bluntly labelled American policy in the Middle East "a dismal and desperate failure." They declared that "thanks to the Dulles delaying tactics, there has never been a time since the war when this country's relations with its two major allies, Britain and France, were nearer the breaking point. Altogether, the failure of our Middle Eastern policy is about as complete as it is possible to imagine."

CANADIAN PREMIER ANNOUNCES EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL

OTTAWA, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- A Security Council decision on the Israel-Egyptian conflict will have an important bearing on Canada's final action on the sale of Canadian manufactured Sabre jet fighters to the Jewish State, Lester B. Pearson, Minister for External Affairs, said here last night.

He reiterated that none of the jets would be shipped pending a review of the entire situation. Mr. Pearson expressed "regret" over the Anglo-French decision to move into the situation, backed the American position and revealed that Canada had not been consulted by Britain and France before they served their ultimatum.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, after a three-hour meeting of his Cabinet today ordered an embargo on jet aircraft shipments to Israel for the time being. The order immediately affects eight fighter planes which were nearly ready for shipment.