

Israel Calm Despite Egyptians' Saber Rattling at Border

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Observers here believed that, should hypothetical action by Israel materialize, Egypt would not intervene if the Israeli move were to be limited both as to timing and area. Egypt, it is seen here, would be forced to act only if Israel were to try to occupy Syrian territory. Such Israeli action is viewed here as "out of the question" since Israel has no territorial aspirations toward Syria but only wants to impress the Damascus leaders with the fact that continued aggression does not pay.

For the present, as the situation is viewed here, Egypt's presence in the Sinai desert has created only a war of nerves based on threats, counter threats, communications and warnings. As far as Syria is concerned, she has succeeded in her main ambition — which is to drag Egypt into the disputes with Israel, escalating to international proportions what has been purely a local issue.

Experts also link the highly-publicized Egyptian moves with the presence currently in Damascus of Egyptian Chief of Staff Gen. Ahmad Fawzi, who is conferring with Syrian Chief of Staff Ahmed Sweidany and Defense Minister Hafez Hassad.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo had been placed on standby alert Monday as Egyptian President Nasser announced that Egypt was placing all armed forces on an emergency basis to support Syria against an alleged Israeli threat.

Reports to Washington described long columns of Egyptian combat units and artillery rumbling through the streets of Cairo in the general direction of Israel. The newspaper Al Ahram, reflecting official Egyptian views, charged that Israeli troops were massing near the Syrian border and that Egypt was preparing to strike Israel from the South to help Syria repel the attack.

The United States Monday counseled Israel and Syria to exercise restraint in the present crisis, a State Department spokesman made known. The United States indicated concern about what appeared to be escalating tensions between Israel and Syria. Both sides have counseled to keep cool.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey voiced American concern at a press conference. "We are in contact through diplomatic channels and are counseling restraint on both nations," he said.

Meanwhile, Syrian Embassy Charge d' Affaires Galeb Kayali accused the United States government of encouraging an imminent Israeli attack on Syria. He made the charge immediately following a meeting with Lucius Battle, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. The Syrian diplomat said he rejected an appeal by Battle to halt infiltration of Arab saboteurs into Israel because Syria was not able to stop infiltration.

"We know Israel is preparing a new aggression against Syria," the Syrian diplomat said. "We cannot consider that this could be carried out without the knowledge and blessing of the United States."

He disclosed that Battle read to him a memorandum expressing concern over the border situation and requesting Syria to refrain from provocations to endanger the armistice including infiltration of terrorists.

The government of Iraq, meanwhile, notified the United States that the Iraqi armed forces will "cooperate actively with Syria to repulse any Israeli attack" and asked that this warning be conveyed to Israel, according to reports received from Baghdad.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Adnan Pachachi has asked not only the United States but also Russia and France to warn Israel. At the same time, Iraqi Defense Minister Mohsen Hussein al Habib called for "united Arab revolutionary action"

to drive the Israelis out of Palestine."

Radio Damascus Tuesday challenged U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to send 2,000,000 American troops to the Middle East to block a coming "war of liberation" against Israel. The broadcast said "There are 6,000,000 people in Syria ready to crush them (the Americans)." The broadcast originated at an anti-Israel rally at the University of Damascus.

U.S. concern about the situation in the Middle East was expressed Monday in a statement issued in New York by Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, head of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. He said that the U.S. government is "distressed over reports of increased tension and military preparations."

Declaring that the U.S. "strongly supports" the efforts of UN Secretary-General U Thant to maintain peace in the Middle East, Ambassador Goldberg revealed that "diplomatic efforts" on the part of the U.S. government are now under way in support of Thant's efforts. "We hope that the response to his efforts will be positive," he stated. His statement was made after George J. Tomeh, the representative of Syria at the United Nations, warned the Security Council that a "Suez type" of crisis was developing in the Middle East. Tomeh suggested that the Central Intelligence Service and the U.S. Sixth Fleet were involved in a "conspiracy" against Syria.

Two more terrorist attacks Monday night, both of them near the Jordanian border, added to the tension. An explosive charge was detonated near Hamatza in the Lahish area about five miles from the border. Early Tuesday morning another blast in the Samearea damaged a telephone pole. Observers said that while these were relatively small and harmless attacks, they could bring an escalation in view of the Egyptian troop concentrations and that what was currently a war of nerves might become real war.

The communist world may be deliberately instigating Syrian guerrilla warfare against Israel, according to Sen. Henry M. Jackson,

Watered-Down Bill Fails to Stop Boycott

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The departments of State and Commerce are preparing to oppose any change in the present vague law. Officials insist that anti-boycott policies should remain on a "voluntary and discretionary basis." They point out that the United States should not prohibit the Arab boycott because America boycotts China and Cuba.

Halpern commented that "it is absurd to compare the discriminatory Arab boycott aimed at democratic Israel with American boycotts of totalitarian regimes that are so lawless that we do not even maintain diplomatic relations with them. I reject this phony equation of Israel with Red China and Cuba. It is only a smokescreen to confuse the issue."

He added that "the Arabs have traded with the Communists despite American boycotts. Damascus, the main office of the Arab boycott, is the scene of pro-Hanoi and pro-Viet Cong propaganda. So is Cairo. I do not think the Congress will be in a mood for appeasement of Hanoi's friends when Americans are dying in Vietnam." (See story Page 5.)

Sao Paulo Honors Jew

SAO PAULO (JTA)—The memory of Horacio Lafer, Brazil's former minister of finance and exterior, was honored here with the naming of the Imperial Avenue after the late Jewish leader.

Washington Democrat, an important member of the Senate Armed Forces Committee and a confidant of President Lyndon B. Johnson on Vietnam war strategy.

Sen. Jackson, who frequently reflects the views of the administration, warned that the communist bloc may be creating a diversionary action in the Near East to take the pressure off North Vietnam.

In an address prepared for delivery to the National Soft Drink Association, Sen. Jackson stressed that the Near East "needs our national attention."

Sen. Jackson said Moscow was "under pressure" from Hanoi and Peking to harass the West in

another area away from Vietnam. He said that evidence was mounting of a deliberate buildup of tensions in the Near East including "growing Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean."

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