

# Israelis Prepare for Any Eventuality With Drills, Shelters

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ernment of national unity capable, it said, of effectively leading the nation in these difficult times.

Israelis were preparing for any eventuality as the tension continued to build steadily toward a showdown.

The ministry of education issued special instructions for safety measures in all the schools and procedures to be followed in the event of a shooting war. Air-raid drills in a number of schools are held daily until the crisis is passed.

Air-raid shelters were hastily being made ready for use by the civilian population in the event of any contingency. Teams of housewives were organized to prepare the shelters already set up in apartment houses and private homes. There was a significant reduction in public bus services in Tel Aviv and other cities. Some routes were discontinued, and the frequency of operation of others changed.

## CITIZENS PREPARE

The ministry of trade and industry sought to reassure nervous housewives seeking to put in supplies of essential foodstuffs. The ministry announced that the country had ample supplies of vital foodstuffs such as fats, flour and sugar.

In many factories, women were seen replacing men who had been called up for service during the crisis.

Israel official and security circles said that the partial mobilization which had been carried out during the first few days had provided sufficient force to meet any possible Egyptian attack. Should additional measures be necessary, they said, they would be effected without delay.

All Israeli units mobilized since Egypt precipitated the current crisis by ordering the United Nations Emergency Force off its territory, have been placed on full combat footing. Israeli naval units off Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba have also been given their emergency instructions and ordered to be ready for any contingency.

Dispatches from Amman, capital of Jordan, said 20,000 Saudi Arabian troops had moved into Jordan and taken up positions at Aqaba, within sight of Eilat, the vital Israeli port at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba. Egyptian sources said Soviet-built MIG jets of the United Arab Republic air force and torpedo boats were patrolling the gulf which leads to Eilat.

Egypt reportedly stopped two German ships that steamed up to the gulf, but allowed them to proceed Wednesday night when it was learned they were headed with goods to Jordan, not Israel.

Coastal gun emplacements on the heights of Sharm el Sheikh were maintaining a watch for any shipping that might challenge the blockade, termed by an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman as equal to "an armed attack." Reports said Iraqi soldiers were moving into Syria to bolster its armed forces along the Israeli frontier.

From New York, in response to Egypt's blockade moves, came the notice from the National Maritime Union President Joseph Curran that if Egypt went ahead with its plans, American seamen would boycott all U.S. ships bound for Egyptian ports.

The Nasser declaration closing the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping was regarded here with exceptional gravity. Maariv, the country's largest newspaper, described it Tuesday as an "act of war" which, it noted, left neither Egypt or Israel a basis for withdrawal or negotiation.

## STATEMENT BY BRITAIN

In London, Prime Minister Harold Wilson said Wednesday that the Strait of Tiran must be regarded as an international waterway. He affirmed that the declaration to this effect made by the British delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in March 1957 "remains the view and policy

of the present government."

Wilson said that Britain would "support and promote" international action to uphold the right of free passage for shipping through the Strait of Tiran.

The British Ministry of Defense said Wednesday that British warships passing through the Mediterranean had been "temporarily held over" because of the Middle East situation. One of the vessels involved is the 35,000-ton aircraft carrier, Victorious. An admiralty spokesman said that rather than dispatch ships from home waters, those passing through the Mediterranean "are being held in readiness against any eventuality."

At first, following France, the British diplomat hedged on Britain's commitment to protect the Arab-Israeli borders in the 1950 Tripartite Agreement. He said that the agreement was 17 years old and that "changed conditions" required different methods. He added that he would not exclude British military intervention but that this was a "remote and unlikely" contingency and that if it did occur, it would take place only in conjunction with United Nations efforts in the area. He reiterated his criticism of UN Sec-

retary-General U Thant for his hasty withdrawal of the UN Emergency Force from the Egyptian-Israeli border and declared he was working with other governments for some sort of UN presence in the area.

The Evening Standard, in an article by Jon Kimche, former editor of the Middle East Review, said that President Johnson sent a message to Soviet Premier Kosygin that the United States was fully committed to support Israel in maintaining the international character of the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba. Kimche wrote that "this American commitment, the Russians and President Nasser of Egypt now know, embraces complete joint operation plans agreed to between the United States and Israel."

Kimche asserted that the commitment was made in May 1964 when President Johnson and Premier Levi Eshkol of Israel met in Washington for 30 minutes after all United States and Israeli aides had been asked to leave the meeting.

In the Hague, Netherlands Prime Minister Pieter DeJong received the Israeli and Egyptian ambassadors in separate audi-

ences Tuesday night and informed them of the Dutch government's concern over the developing tension in the Middle East.

He informed the Egyptian envoy that the Dutch government regarded its blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba as a violation of international agreements.

People in the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv continued to show calmness although they expressed bitterness at Israel's "betrayal." The only noticeable sign of tension was the virtual standstill when the Israel Radio news program was being broadcast. It seemed at those moments that everyone stopped to listen to the news. There were no evident signs of the weekend mobilization and no more uniforms in evidence on the streets than normally.

## STATE DEPT. WARNS

U. S. State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey, at a press conference reported that because of the gravity of the situation, the estimated 13,500 American citizens in Israel, in addition to 4,250 in the Jerusalem area (Jordan and Israel) were being advised to leave. This pertained to persons whose presence in Israel is "non-

essential." Those anticipating travel to Israel were advised by the United States government to cancel plans. The United States also urged the departure of 2,650 Americans from Egypt, 925 from Syria, 830 from Jordan. Persons planning travel to those countries or Israel were urged to avoid the region.

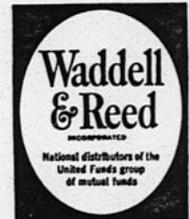
Up until Nasser's announcement that Egypt would bar the Straits of Tiran, Prime Minister Eshkol, speaking not only as premier but also as Israel's minister of defense, proposed that Israel and Egypt carry out "reciprocal reductions" of their troop concentrations on each other's borders.

Eshkol told a tense Parliament (Continued on Page 18)

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## Detroiters Respond to Crisis

At an emergency meeting attended by Detroit's community leaders, a statement on the current Middle East crisis was issued to all organizations and synagogues affiliated with the Jewish Community Council.

The message reads, in part, as follows:

The Jewish Community Council of Detroit, the Zionist Council and the local leadership of many Detroit and national Jewish organizations have kept in close touch with the rapidly developing Middle East situation.

Both as American citizens and as Jews with a particular view of the importance of Israel, we are in unanimous agreement that the preservation of peace in that area is critical to the welfare, security and prosperity of the nationals of all the Middle East states.

The Detroit Jewish community has responded well and effectively to the demand of the present crisis. Hundreds of messages have gone from Detroit to the White House, the secretary of state and to members of Congress. These messages have gone over the signatures of individuals and organizations.

The response of our President offers promise that our government recognizes and will move to counter provocative and belligerent conduct.

Our community leadership is remaining in close and constant touch with the situation. We recognize the intense interest on the part of many thousands of people, and we shall do our utmost to keep them informed as to how they can be helpful.

Philanthropic and investment support are, of course, essential, and we urge that those who can possibly do so to honor at once their pledges to our Allied Jewish Campaign and to purchase Israel Bonds.

Beyond this, and recognizing that the situation is fluid and subject almost to hourly changes, we urge—as of this writing—that Detroiters continue to express their views by telegram to the President, the secretary of state and members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The points that we regard as important and worthy of emphasis are:

1. The United States should quickly and publicly reaffirm repeated undertakings and commitments to protect the territorial integrity of Israel.

2. The views expressed by the President with respect to the rights of free passage of the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of

Aqaba are in accord with the aim of maintaining peace and should be supported. It is our hope that if necessary, the United States will be ready to implement this position.

3. Stability and security of the frontiers must be protected against incursions. It is important that the victims of aggression not be confused with the aggressors.

Earlier, on behalf of the organizations affiliated with the Jewish Community Council, Dr. Samuel Krohn, president, sent a telegram to President Johnson and com-

municated with the secretary of state and members of Congress from the Detroit area.

Dr. Krohn's message said "The organizations affiliated with our council join in respectfully urging maximum effort by our government to maintain stability and security of frontiers in the Middle East. Terrorist attacks and war threats by Arab leaders pose a major danger which in our estimation should be countered by firm assurances that the United States will act within a commitment to protect Israel's territory integrity."

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