

EGYPTIANS, TRAPPED IN SINAI, ACCEPT TRUCE

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Tank battle smashes Nasser's armoured force

Egypt last night informed the U.N. Secretary General, U Thant, that it was ready to accept a cease-fire. The move came after a major tank battle in Sinai yesterday in which Israel forces appeared to have broken the back of Egypt's armoured strength. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said last night that Israel was ready to accede to the cease fire as soon as Egypt stops fighting. Foreign Minister Abba Eban, at the Security Council, said it was now up to the other Arab countries to accept a cease-fire. Syrian forces continued shelling Israel border settlements.

Cairo's supply problems

Jerusalem Post Military Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Units of the Israel Defence Forces have sealed off the four main exits out of Sinai to the Suez Canal. Some of the first retreating Egyptian armoured columns succeeded in reaching the Canal area, but whatever is left of the force in Sinai — and this may still amount to several hundred tanks — has now been cut off completely from Egypt.

With supplies running low and maintenance problems piling up, the Egyptian units may have no alternative but to dig in and fight or surrender.

Meanwhile, the Israel Air Force, as well as armoured units, continue to whittle away at the Egyptian forces. In an engagement fought on Wednesday over 100 Egyptian tanks were knocked out. Yesterday's tank battles were fought at Gafaga, on the central front sector. Egyptian tank losses were said to be heavy.

FORM SMALL GROUPS

The Egyptians are now believed to be reorganizing into smaller, more compact units which, they hope, will have a better chance of breaking Israel's stranglehold. Yesterday the Egyptian Air Force made another futile attempt to come to the rescue of its units, and lost eight planes in combat with Israel fighters. These included

an Ilyushin-28 bomber, two Sukhoi-7 fighters, two Mig-17s and one a Mig-19. The Egyptians are for the time being withdrawing in more or less orderly fashion. Egypt's decision to reject a cease-fire would have worsened the Egyptian army's lot within the next 24 hours. A number of anti-aircraft rocket sites were destroyed on the Suez region.

Israeli forces killed seven Egyptian guerrillas, wounded four and took 49 prisoners yesterday in Israel territory, a military spokesman said. Members of the unit, which apparently came from the Gaza Strip, harassed a number of villages in the Ruhama-Dorot region on Wednesday night and early yesterday.

CAIRO'S ADMISSION

An Egyptian military communique broadcast by Cairo Radio at 10 p.m. said battles of "unprecedented ferocity" were taking place on "all three sectors" in the Sinai area. It added that the "enemy's tremendous air cover was far beyond our strength" due to U.S. and British support.

The communique made no mention of Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire. On the Northern front, at about 12.30 p.m. the Syrians began shelling the villages of Huleta and Yess-e Hamala. Some three hours later, Syrian artillery began shelling the village of Tel Katzir. Syrian shells were also fired at the settlement of Ha'on.

There were no civilian casualties, but the damage to buildings, livestock and fields was considerable. Gadot was in particular heavily shelled the day before.

Vauvour bombers of the Israel Air Force hit back at 4.30 p.m., bombing Syrian positions on the crest of the mountain range and further back. Many positions were put out of action. From a number of points in east Galilee the results could be observed from the smoke billowing up along the ridge. The Syrian Air force did not show up yesterday, but their anti-aircraft guns were active.

The civilian population along the whole border, including this town, spent much of the day in shelters, but showed great patience and good humour.

EX-U.N.E.F. SWEDES

LEAVE PORT SAID

STOCKHOLM (UPI). — A group of 143 Swedes belonging to the former U.N. Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip were taken aboard the Swedish freighter Timmerland at Port Said yesterday morning, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Reports here said the Swedish freighter Thuleland is still waiting to take aboard the main group of the Swedish U.N. forces from Gaza, at the port of Ashdod.

5 ARAB DIPLOMATS HELD AS ENEMY ALIENS

The five Arab Consuls-General captured in the Old City of Jerusalem on Tuesday have been "temporarily detained" as enemy aliens, government sources said yesterday.



RAV-ALUF YITZHAK RABIN

Emergency in oil transport

WASHINGTON (UPI). — The American petroleum industry told the U.S. Government yesterday that the Middle East war has caused a world-wide emergency in the transportation of oil. The Government responded immediately by offering a plan of action — if it decides such an emergency does exist.

The Middle East supplies about a third of the West's oil consumption — about 13 million barrels a day. Government spokesmen said about 5 million barrels a day move through the Suez Canal and pipelines across Arab lands. This amounts to 55 per cent of the total supplies Western Europe uses. The U.S. receives about 200,000 barrels a day from Arab wells, and Canada about 150,000.

Way to peace open

WITH Egypt's acceptance of the cease-fire prospects of peace are closer. Jordan agreed to the cease-fire on the previous day, and except for sniping that front has been quiet. The Syrians, whose pressure upon Egypt was the main factor in causing tension to build up, have only now begun to launch their attack, and they have not announced their acceptance of a cease-fire, so that the situation in that area is still unclear.

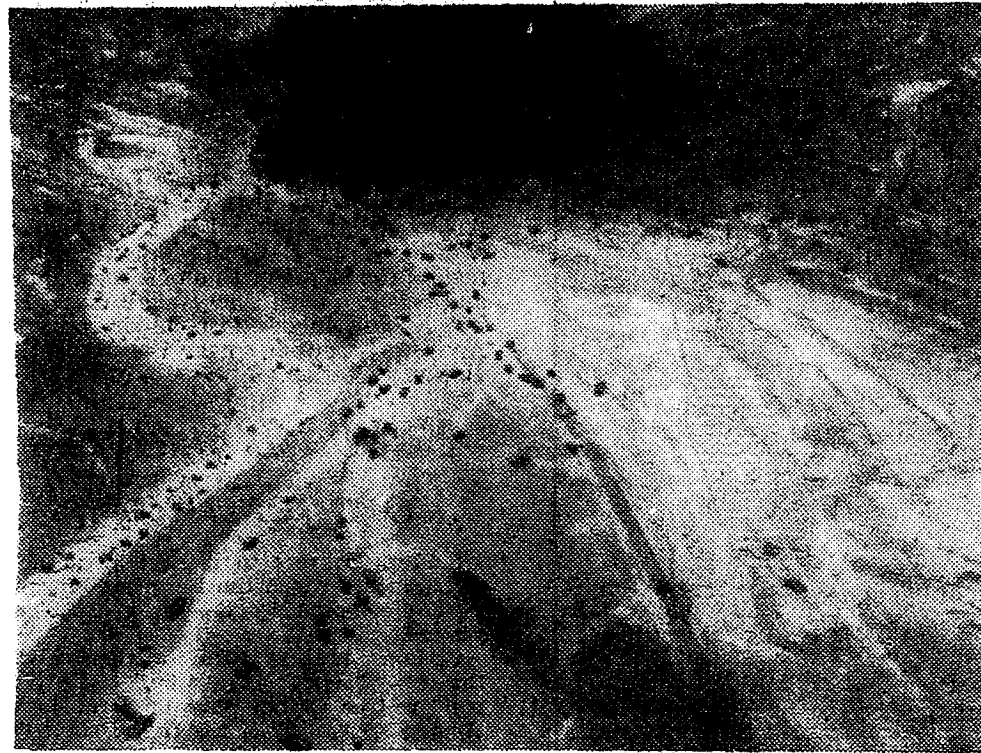
But there cannot be the faintest doubt in anyone's mind that the overall situation that resulted is astonishingly favourable for Israel. Not only are the Western Wall and the entire Old City and the surrounding areas in our hands, ending forever the situation of the past 20 years, when we were barred from access both to the Wall and to the Hebrew University-Hadassah enclave on Mount Scopus, but the Straits of Tiran are open and the Israel shipping lines are busily preparing new schedules for their vessels. The Egyptian forces have been shifted well away from the Sinai frontier, and the Gaza Strip is once more under Israel occupation. There are all the makings here of the removal of threats to Israel security and with it of the peace which is our objective.

For this peace to become solid and well established, and to develop in the course of time into the normal relations of neighbouring states, two conditions are needed. The first and more difficult of them is that the Arab states will have to accept our existence despite their renewed defeat and the feelings of frustration and injured pride this has engendered.

Egypt has been defeated three times, and despite Nasser's extraordinary gift for turning a military defeat into a propaganda victory his position has been shaken by his abysmal misjudgement in risking a third war with Israel. The Sinai desert lies between Israel and Egypt, and it could serve us well in keeping Egyptian forces permanently at a good distance from our settled areas. The decision to make peace will not be easy for Nasser after a defeat, but it holds the only prospect for a peaceful future for the area.

The other condition for peace is therefore that the major nations should cease to deny the incontrovertible fact that Israel represents the strongest and most promising force for stability in the area today, and to make use of it. In an area where Nasser has fought in the Yemen for three years and bitter quarrels and rivalries between the other states are endemic, it is out of date to consider Israel, a strong Israel seeking peace, as a "problem."

Any other attitude does involve the kind of reappraisal and abandonment of accepted ideas which are always unpopular with foreign ministries, which are notoriously conservative. For the Soviet Union in particular it is not palatable that the states which they have tried hard to build up should have proved vulnerable, but that is the position. If Egypt is to become as strong and prosperous as the Soviet Union appears to wish, then the shortest road to success is to persuade Egypt to sign a genuine treaty with Israel that will permit both nations to build up their future in peace. The big powers, which have tried so often to ensure stability here have a genuine opportunity of achieving this objective now if they will show the courage to grasp it.



Smoke rises from burning tanks knocked out by an Israel air strike at the Mitla pass in Sinai.

Eshkol: Could Thant tells U.N. Council not rely on promises of U.A.R.'s decision

UNITED NATIONS (UPI). — Egypt yesterday accepted a U.N. cease-fire, Secretary General U Thant announced to the Security Council.

He read the following communication from Mohammed Awad e-Kony, Egypt's envoy to the U.N.:

"I have the honour to inform you upon instructions of my Government that the United Arab Republic has decided to accept the cease-fire call as prescribed in two resolutions of the Security Council, if the other party also has decided to accept."

A similarly conditioned acceptance already had been received from Israel, and Jordan had also agreed to the cease-fire. The U.S. earlier yesterday opened another in the series of Council crisis meetings with a resolution calling on the Arab countries to accept the cease-fire and urging immediate arrangements for the disengagement and withdrawal of the warring forces in the Middle East. The session was summoned urgently on U.S. request.

The Soviet Union countered with a resolution condemning Israel for continuing hostilities "in defiance of the U.N. and all peace-loving states" and demanding the withdrawal of Israel troops from Arab territory to positions behind the 1949 armistice demarcation lines.

The Egyptian delegate sat expressionless among representatives of other Arab states which are not members of the Council, a short distance away from the horseshoe table, as U Thant made the announcement. Immediately afterwards the Soviet delegate, Dr. Nikolai Fedorenko, launched into another bitter attack on Israel, accusing it of committing aggression, challenging the U.N. and violating the U.N. charter.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel urged the other Arab states to agree also to a cease-fire, particularly Syria, with which, he said, Israel was engaged in heavy fighting.

Mr. Eban said, after the Egyptian an-

TEL AVIV. — The Prime Minister declared last night that "the three weeks' delay was not in vain. It will have enhanced our political standing." Mr. Eshkol also reported at a meeting of the Mapai Secretariat that many Jews were asking to return to their homes within the Old City of Jerusalem.

Dwelling on the 21 days between May 15 and June 5, Mr. Eshkol remarked: "We were first asked to wait two days. Then we sent Mr. Abba Eban to the U.S. — and we were asked to wait a further fortnight. President Johnson promised great things. They told us that 40-50 maritime powers would sign a guarantee for free passage through the Tiran Straits. We examined the situation and found that it really came down to a dozen, and finally to only two countries, and then perhaps only one — Israel."

He added: "I once told President Johnson that it is likely that when we are attacked you will be very busy with other matters, and that the nature of the guarantee is unclear."

Mr. Eshkol declared that "tremendous preparations have been made in recent years, because we knew what might confront us. Various experts were of the opinion that it was entirely unlikely that all Arab countries would unite against us," but this possibility was taken into account in Israel's preparedness. He praised the Chief of Staff and the entire staff and singled out the Air Force for its performance.

MRS. MEIR TO U.S. ON FUND DRIVE

Mrs. Golda Meir, Secretary-General of Mapai, announced that she is to fly to the U.S. today on a fund-raising mission.



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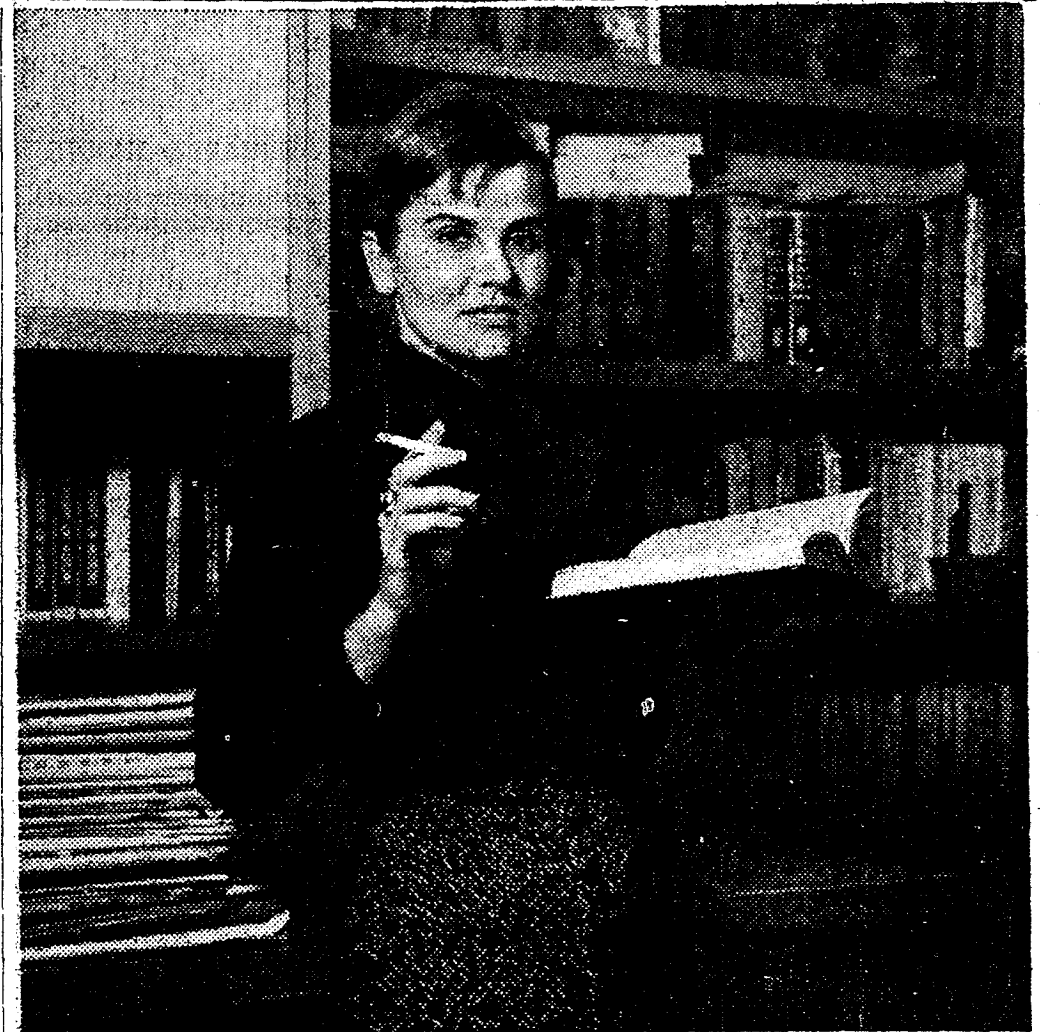
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