

# Egyptians Turn Down Bid To Peace Talks

Stockholm, Aug. 14 (AP) — The Egyptian Government notified Count Folke Bernadotte today that it had rejected Israel's proposal for direct Palestine peace talks between Arabs and Jews.

In a cable to the United Nations mediator, the Egyptian Government said the Egyptians could not accept the stand of the Israeli Government that it could discuss the future "of any part of Palestine."

Bernadotte said the Jews had approached him with the idea of direct negotiations with the Arabs. He added he had relayed the invitation to the Arab states at the request of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok.

## Council's Action

The Egyptian Government said the Security Council had provided for Bernadotte himself to suggest solutions to the Palestine problem. Because of the Security Council's action, the Egyptians added, Egypt had obeyed Bernadotte's orders for a cease-fire in the Holy Land, but expected any solution for permanent peace to come from Bernadotte.

Earlier, Bernadotte held out hope of a permanent Palestine settlement even as Arabs and Jews battled in Jerusalem.

The United Nations mediator said that if the truce can be maintained for six more weeks in Palestine "the conflict might be solved peacefully."

Arriving here to attend the International Red Cross convention, Bernadotte said definite results toward settling the Holy Land issue might be expected by the middle of October.

## Keeping Truce Difficult

Maintaining the truce, he said, "is by far the most difficult part of my job." If the truce can be kept, he added, "we can be very hopeful that the war is finished."

"I hope to have a report ready for presentation to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its meeting in Paris in September," he said.

Bernadotte conferred with United Nations officials in Geneva en route to Stockholm. He said he was promised "quick help" for some 400,000 Arab refugees who fled Palestine to surrounding Arab states.

## Erroneous Report

[At Rhodes, Bernadotte's headquarters said today that a report Israel refused a cease-fire order in Jerusalem had been transmitted erroneously from Haifa. The staff said the mediator's request still is being discussed.

[Bernadotte said in Rome yesterday that the Jews had rejected his request and commented: "They are taking an enormous responsibility." He said the Arabs accepted the cease-fire request, to have become effective at 2 A. M. (E.D.T.) Friday. Shooting continued in Jerusalem after the deadline.]

Meanwhile, fighting raged on in Jerusalem.

## 3 Killed By Snipers

Jewish sources said three Jews were killed by Arab sniper fire. A spokesman for the Trans-Jordan Arab Legion in Amman said legion troops were under heavy Jewish fire for three hours when the Jews attacked Thursday night.

In Tel Aviv, Israel's provisional Government appeared headed toward its first Cabinet crisis. The issue boils down to whether the new state will lean toward the United States or Soviet Russia.