

MASSING OF ARABS WORRIES PALESTINE

Large Concentration Northeast of Nablus Leads to Fears of a New Offensive

By SAM POPE BREWER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24—Palestine was awaiting a new Arab offensive today, with more than 700 uniformed armed Arabs reported concentrated about Tubas, ten miles northeast of Nablus.

Though obviously impossible to confirm officially, the report of the Arab troop concentration was held by official sources to be true.

British authorities here were protesting to King Abdullah because Arab fighters have been allowed to come from Trans-Jordan, according to a well-informed source.

The Arab concentration emphasized a change in tactics from the disorganized attacks—which the Arab Higher Committee officially disapproved—to organized and skillfully coordinated fighting.

Observers who witnessed the raid on Yehiam, north of Haifa, this week, say that it was obvious that a highly skilled soldier had planned the raid and that disciplined men carried it out.

Though the Arabs do not yet really recognize a central authority or observe real discipline, there have been repeated indications of a trend in that direction in recent days. The present pause in activities is considered a possible indication of a change from the sporadic activity of irresponsible bands to a coherent, organized offensive.

The Arab leaders, it has been said, hoped to hold off any major effort until after the British left. Presumably they still hope to do so because they do not wish to force the British to delay their departure.

At the same time, since it was impossible to prevent a certain amount of violence once the leaders had stirred up the Arab population, these leaders are now trying to direct it into effective channels.

The recent attacks at the Lebanese and Syrian frontiers, at Ramat Rachel near Jerusalem and in the Hebron area, have shown a degree of organization that is new to Arab attacks here.

The main highway between Jerusalem and Jaffa was blocked today when Jews blew up a culvert near Beit Dajan in the day's most serious incident. Beit Dajan is in the area just outside Jaffa where serious clashes occurred between Jews and Arabs along the highway two days ago.

Telephone traffic also was seriously hampered as the lines were cut by an explosion. The authorities tonight appealed to users to limit their calls to Jaffa and Tel Aviv to those strictly necessary until the lines were repaired.

A typical instance of increasing lawlessness here was the invasion of the Reuters news agency office today by three Jews who gave a beating to two 15-year-old Arab messengers. Reuters' office is within 100 yards of police headquarters in the heart of Jerusalem, but also in the belt that is neither strictly Arab nor strictly Jewish and just outside the security zone.

A Jewish source reported tonight from Haifa that seventeen Arabs are being sought by the police on murder charges as a result of the stabbing and beating to death of forty-one Jews at the oil refineries in Haifa on Dec. 30 after Jews had thrown a bomb into a group of Arabs at the gates of the refineries.

Warrants for "unlawful wounding" were said to have been issued against twenty additional Arabs in connection with the same affair.

The same source stated that 9,000 rounds of ammunition had disappeared in Haifa on Thursday night from headquarters of the British First Brigade of the Sixth Airborne Division.

Police reports for the day gave total casualties as three Arabs killed. No Jewish fatalities were reported today but one Jew was

reported killed by a sniper last night in Haifa.

One Royal Air Force man and one Arab were reported wounded.

17 Arabs Face Murder Charge

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (UP)—

The Palestine Government today charged seventeen Arabs with the murder of forty-two Jews in the Haifa oil refinery riot last Dec. 30. Twenty others were charged with wounding Jews.

The riot broke out after members of Irgun Zvai Leumi rolled a barrel-bomb off a truck and into the Consolidated Refinery, killing six Arabs. Incensed Arab workers turned on Jewish employees. Then both Arab and Jewish workers struck, threatening Palestine with a shortage of oil products.

It was the first severe government action against Arabs since Jewish-Arab clashes flared up after the partition decision in November. Apparently it marks a new government policy—to quell violence in the coming crucial months preceding British withdrawal.

Only two days ago authorities hacked down Arab orange trees at the village of Yazur as a punitive measure for Arab attacks.

No dates or other details on the trial of the thirty-seven Arabs were disclosed. Fifty Jews were wounded in the same riot in which thirty-nine were killed.

Arab Slain in Gun Fight

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (Reuters)

—An Arab was killed in a gun battle which developed after an accident north of Nahariya, northern Palestine, in which a British army water truck crashed into a Jewish armored bus last night, it was officially reported today.

The bus, leading a Jewish convoy, was overturned in the crash, and its occupants, thinking that they had been attacked, opened fire.

Arab villagers, hearing shooting in the darkness, joined in the fight.

U. N. APPEAL TO AIM AT STAFF'S CHILDREN

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Jan. 24

—The "report to the children" to be presented by the United Nations Appeal for Children here on Feb. 14 will be directed mainly to the children of Secretariat employees and delegates who are already in the neighborhood of Lake Success, it was declared today by Dr. Aake Ording, director of the appeal.

The teen-age children, representing many of the nations of the world, will convene in a kind of "miniature assembly" to promote the international appeal for funds to help feed needy children in war-ravaged countries.

In addition to the children living near this headquarters, there will be a group of boys and girls from Scandinavian countries, who are now visiting the United States on a separate trip, and another group of teen-age visitors already here from the United Kingdom.

Dr. Ording emphasized, in line with the recommendations of an Economic and Social Council special subcommittee, that the idea of convening a world congress of child delegates sent here from overseas specifically for the purpose had been dropped. Instead, he added, written and recorded messages from abroad will be presented to the children, who will then set forth their own observations.

American youngsters in the audience, probably from such major groups as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, will be participants in the United States campaign for the appeal, conducted jointly by the American Overseas Aid-United Nations Appeal for Children.

Bolivian Police Curb Plot

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Jan. 24 (UP)—

Police authorities announced today they had discovered a revolutionary plot hatched by the totalitarian National Revolutionary Movement [MNR]. Earlier ten prominent members of the party were arrested. One of them, Luis Luna Orozco, was released later. The nine still in custody were Luis Penalzoza, Federico Alvarez Plata, Jorge Rios, Ernesto Ruiz, Hugo Cardenas, Augusto Cuadros, Luis Arduz, Lucio Quiroz and Luis Merida.