

BRIER

Continued from Page 1 here somewhere, and at least partly.

Say you were on a train, Calcutta to Madras. You were a Sahib, which is nice to be in India. You had a "man" along to care for your wants, which is necessary in India. Somewhere down the line there were two large towns about fifty miles apart. Between lay twenty-five villages. You aren't on an express, but a milk train, as we say—two first-class coaches, a dozen for natives.

In the large towns about five thousand people are at the station to meet the train. That is a little surprising, but at the villages a thousand or two show up. Each village is no bigger than what we call a tank town, but village after village—a thousand or two. They stand white and motionless and in silence around the station, on the road behind, up the side roads among the palms, on the embankment. They stare. They are still standing there as you pull away. Where the hell do they all come from?

Slowly the melancholy impression would come over you that these are not people, individuals, but segments of a monster. There were not 400,000 Indians, but a few-score thousand monsters which appear at railroad stations and somberly regard arriving and departing trains.

Well, it was a fantasy, however uncomfortable. It was not true. There were 400,000 Indians. The two fundamental causes of India's ills are an unbelievable religious fanaticism, and an unbelievable swarming of population. Without the second the first might resolve itself, or at least permit a peace. Without the first, the second would still be a dread problem.

The crowding problem was not so virulent when the British first went there. It is chiefly a problem of the last century. The Industrial Age in the West permitted an increase of food production in India, which permitted an increase of population. But whatever may have been the transition situation in the last century, population has now the jump on food availability. There isn't enough arable land to feed this prodigious population adequately, or enough industry to export goods and import food in exchange. India has now the highest birthrate of any great people. But it also has the highest death rate. Population experts say the high death rate is all that prevents Indians overturning the earth in the next few decades.

Here is one of the great and solemn realities of our time, of immense and probably evil potential for the whole world's future. And an extremely good little man ceases to eat. But, you say, if he continued eating, it would make no difference. That's right.

January 16, 1948

Cabot in Shanghai
SHANGHAI, Jan. 15 (AP)—John M. Cabot, new U. S. Consul General for Shanghai, arrived by plane today with his wife and small daughter, Elizabeth.

Britain-Iraq Pact Treaty 'Guaranteeing Freedom' Is Key to New Middle East Strategy

By HERBERT MATTHEWS

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LONDON, Jan. 15—Britain signed a new treaty with Iraq today, which in effect, guarantees the protection of that country. It is an event of great importance to Middle Eastern strategy and constitutes the first step in what is hoped will be a widespread defensive network in the Middle East against the "iron curtain."

Foreign Minister Bevin, who signed the treaty at Portsmouth, said he hoped it would be the first of a series of such treaties. It was made clear at the Foreign Office that Britain considers this treaty to put on record the fact she is now ready to assume a greater responsibility in the Middle East than hitherto.

Although the pact is couched in terms of absolute sovereign equality between Britain and Iraq, its special purpose really is to protect Iraq.

Britain retains the use of her two great air bases in Iraq, and closest military links are maintained between the nations.

IRAQ now achieves complete territorial independence, since one feature of the new treaty is that the air bases of Habbaniya and Shaibah, which have been British property, will in the future be owned by Iraq. However, Britain has the right to continue use of the bases until peace treaties have entered into force with all former enemy countries.

The British and Iraqi armed forces will be interconnected in many ways. Britain will, for instance, continue to sell arms to Iraq. Last week, Zionist circles in the

United States strongly criticized the British for selling arms to the Arabs, who it was claimed were using them in Palestine.

One of the most important sections for the future of the Middle East is article One B of the annex, which reads as follows:

"In event of either high contracting party becoming involved in war or of a menace of hostilities, his majesty the King of Iraq will invite His Britannic Majesty to bring immediately to Iraq the necessary forces of all arms and will furnish to His Britannic Majesty on Iraqi territory all the facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes and lines of communication on the same financial terms as those applicable to the forces of His Majesty the King of Iraq."

British pleasure today, as expressed by Bevin, was genuine.

"This treaty is the beginning of a new series of treaties regularizing and expressing the friendship between this country and the Arabic world," he said.

There was some mystification here as to what new treaties Bevin had in mind. The Anglo-Egyptian treaty is still on the thorny, and thus far impenetrable, path of negotiation. Trans-Jordan has signified a desire for a new treaty and doubtless that will be modeled on today's pact. Saudi Arabia has said nothing about a treaty, and Syria and Lebanon are out of the question at present. As far as is known, Bevin was not thinking of the new states to be set up in Palestine. He was making an open invitation to all the middle eastern countries.

ment entirely elected by the people. Ananda was succeeded to the throne by his brother, Phumiphon Aduldet, now 19 years old. The new King subsequently went to Lausanne, Switzerland, to continue his education.

On November 9 a bloodless coup engineered by Pibul Songgram, the wartime Premier-dictator of Siam, and his military associates overthrew the government of Premier Thamrong Nawasawat.

A spokesman for the new regime said on November 17 that the coup had forestalled a conspiracy to assassinate King Phumiphon as part of a plan to overthrow the monarchy and set up a republic. The spokesman added that a would-be assassin then was en route to Switzerland.

Arab-Jewish Strife Claims 71 More Lives

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15 (AP)—At least 71 persons were reported slain today in fierce Arab-Jewish fighting in Southern Palestine and in the teeming streets of the northern port city of Haifa.

British planes, tanks and artillery halted the battle in the craggy southern area of the Holy Land where 50 persons—20 Arabs and 30 Jews—were estimated by police to have lost their lives in the last 24 hours. The battle there developed when 400 Arabs surrounded four Jewish settlements in the vicinity of Hebron.

Guns, grenades and knives were used in the fighting at Haifa, where it was reported 10 Arabs were killed and 25 wounded and five Jews killed and 12 wounded.

The lower town around the port area was completely isolated from the mountainside residential and business sections. Harbor activity halted. Oil refineries slowed because workers were unable to get to their jobs over streets intermittently swept by gunfire.

All public transportation in Haifa stopped and stores were locked. An official statement said "all courts and many other public facilities are closed until further notice."

The unofficial tabulation of deaths in Palestine since the United Nations voted for partition November 29 now stood at 801.

During the fighting in Southern Palestine a plane, which British military officials said they believed was Jewish-piloted, fired on an RAF reconnaissance aircraft over Kfar Etzion. This marked the first time the RAF encountered aerial opposition during current Arab-Jewish hostilities.

Jewish sources said the Arab attackers in the Hebron area were believed to be "recruits" from Syria and Iraq, and that most of them wore uniforms and steel helmets. Damascus dispatches said hundreds of Arabs have been slipping across the unguarded Palestine border to join in the fight.

Although the British Army said the shooting ceased after British troops brought up tanks and self-propelled guns, official sources said "large concentrations" of Arabs remained in the Hebron hills surrounding the settlements.

Rabbi Silver Arrives For Palestine Stay
TEL AVIV, Jan. 15 (AP)—Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, leading U. S. member of the Jewish Agency, arrived by plane last night. Jewish sources said he planned to spend at least two months in Palestine.

Texan Monument
SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP)—Texas has the tallest monument in the world—the San Jacinto Monument and Museum at San Jacinto battlegrounds, 18 miles from Houston, where Texas' independence from Mexico was won. It is 564 feet above finished grade line. Cost \$1,000,000.

U. N. Is Asked to Provide Palestine Police

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 15 (AP)—A resolution calling on the United Nations Security Council to consider formation of an international police force for Palestine was presented to the U. N. Palestine Commission today by Senator Vincent J. Francisco of the Philippines.

U. N. officials said the resolution had been submitted to the secretary of the commission.

Francisco's resolution reportedly called on the Security Council to determine whether there is a breach of the peace or threat to the peace in Palestine and, if so, to take steps toward organizing an international police force to handle partitioning of the Holy Land into Jewish and Arab states.

The Associated Press reported Moshe Shertok, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, appeared before the committee and said the Jewish Agency felt immediate action should be taken to create the international force for the Holy Land and to assist in establishing a Jewish militia.

No Troops To Palestine, Says Truman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (AP)—President Truman ruled out today any idea of the United States sending troops to enforce the partition of Palestine, independently of the United Nations.

He has no such intention, he told a news conference questioner. Then he added that probably in the long run there will be a United Nations police force to back up U. N. decisions.

To back them up in Palestine? he was asked. Not necessarily, Mr. Truman replied, but wherever it may be needed. All of us are working for an international police force to support the U. N., he said.

Possible inclusion of American troops in any force dispatched by the U. N. to Palestine or elsewhere was not mentioned in the President's replies. The U. N. Charter provides for representation of U. N. members in the international police force which is still under discussion.

The President declined comment when asked about the problem of enforcing the partition of Palestine. At the State Department, it was learned that American diplomats abroad have been advised that United States policy is to leave to the United Nations the problem of enforcing the partition of Palestine.

A statement to this effect by Undersecretary Robert A. Lovett was distributed by the State Department to Embassies and Legations. It was cited by officials today on an Arab League announcement at Cairo that the league is advising Arab states to move troops into Palestine as soon as the British move out.

Lovett's statement on this Government's position was given in

Death Report on Yemen's Ruler Is Disbelieved

CAIRO, Jan. 15 (AP)—Cairo newspapers received cables tonight reporting the death of Imam Yehia, aged ruler of the kingdom of Yemen, but a Yemen representative to the Arab League here expressed belief that the Arab leader was still alive.

Egyptian newspapers said the cables were signed by Seif El Hak Ibrahim, a son of the 82-year-old ruler, who described himself as "president of the Legislative Council in the new government."

Assad said the league, composed of seven Arab nations, does not recognize the existence of the Jewish state projected by the United Nations partition decision of November 29.

Asked whether the plan to occupy all of Palestine with regular Arab armies represented the decision of each individual Arab country or the recommendation of the Arab League, Assad said: "The Arab League recommends and each state is not forced to take the recommendations."

He declared nothing will dissuade the Arabs from fighting to the end against partition of the Holy Land and said: "The Arab governments have notified the big powers of the Arab governments' and peoples' determination to defend their rights even against the big powers' armies."

Told that the Palestine government has agreed that foreign countries may send troops to guard their consulates, Assad declared that if the government was unable to protect foreign nationals "each nation is perfectly welcome to send guards."

He explained, however, that if the

Arab Armies May Occupy Entire Area of Holy Land

CAIRO, Jan. 15 (AP)—The Arab League has recommended that the Arab nations occupy all Palestine with their regular armies when British troops leave the Holy Land. Assad Dagher, chief of the league's press section, told a news conference today.

Until now Arab League sources had indicated the Arab fight against partition would be conducted by a volunteer "peoples army" operating along guerrilla lines.

Assad declared the league would consider it an "unfriendly act" if an international police force landed in Palestine before the British withdrawal and added that in such a case the league council would "take steps to meet this emergency."

JEWISH STATE
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Early Surrender of Mandate Rumored

LONDON, Jan. 15 (AP)—Informed sources said today the Palestine Government, fearing a breakdown of the civil government machine because of communal fighting, has recommended that Britain surrender her Holy Land mandate six weeks ahead of the tentative date of May 15.

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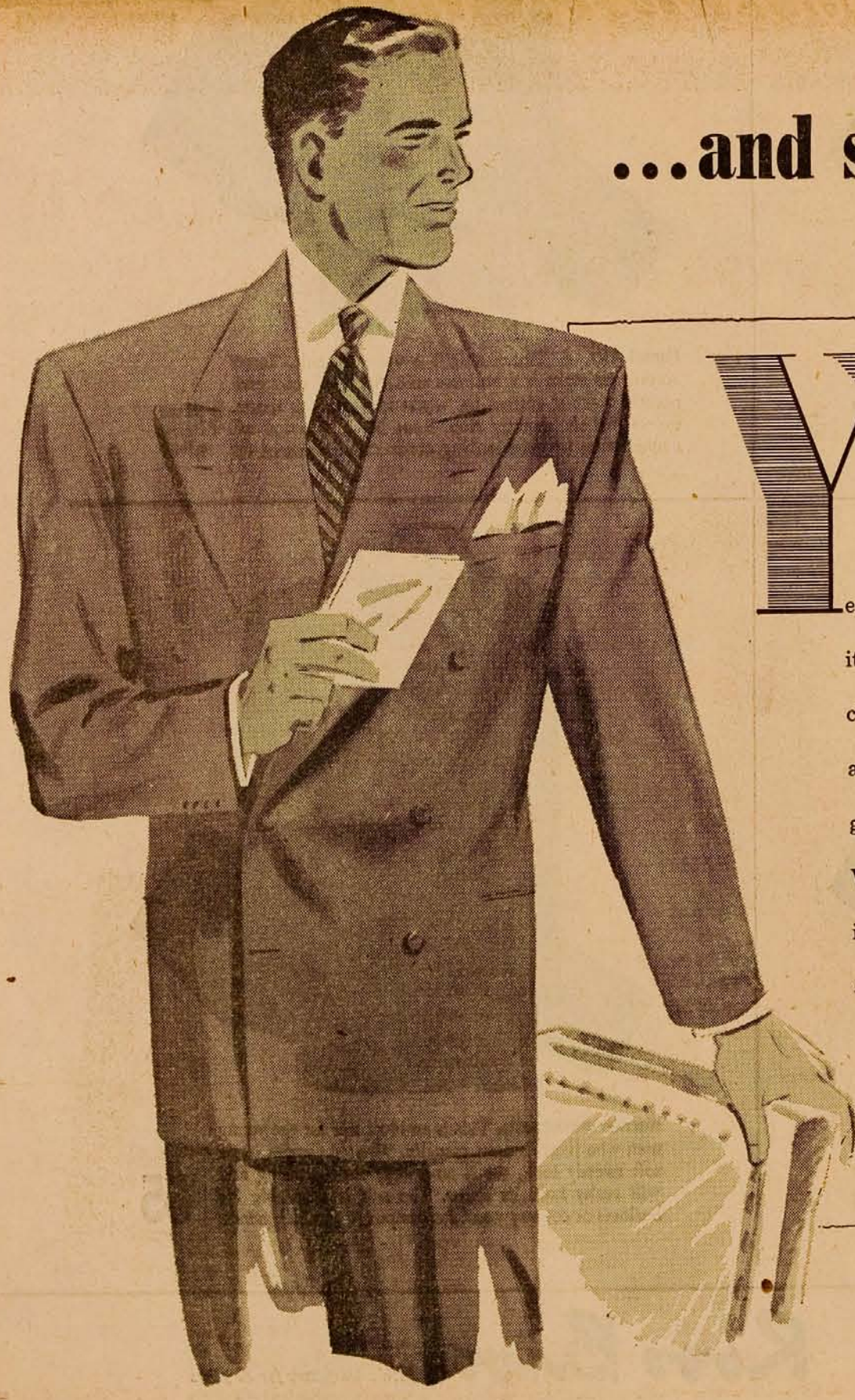
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