

Palestine Battle

45 Are Killed in Jewish Raid, Arab Ambush in the Judean Hills

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (AP)—Palestine's fiercest communal battle swept through the Judean hills between Hebron and Bethlehem where 45 persons were slain in a Jewish raid and an Arab ambush, police said tonight. Scattered fighting elsewhere in the Holy Land brought to 53 the known death toll during the past 24 hours. In the 49 days since the United Nations voted for partition a total of 881 persons have been killed in Palestine, an unofficial tabulation showed.

Davies Will Testify on Arabian Oil

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AP)—The Senate War Investigating Committee tonight dropped plans to subpoena Ralph K. Davies, deputy wartime petroleum administrator, for testimony about Arabian oil deals when it learned Davies will appear voluntarily next Friday.

Chairman Brewster (R., Me.) was telling reporters about sending the subpoena to San Francisco for Davies' appearance here next Tuesday when Harold Ickes, former Secretary of Interior and Davies' wartime boss, telephoned Brewster that Davies will appear Friday.

"Apparently Mr. Davies was able to convince Mr. Ickes that he should testify," Brewster said. "I telephoned Davies earlier today and he refused to say that he would come."

But Brewster said another subpoena, calling on Secretary of the Interior Krug to supply "certain missing papers" concerning the wartime Arabian oil offers, would be issued this week end.

The Senator said these papers deal with a reported offer in 1943 by W. S. Rogers, president of the Texas Company, to supply Arabian oil at "cost plus a nominal profit."

If the United States Government would extend lend-lease aid to Saudi Arabia.

Brewster contends the Navy later bought some \$60,000,000 of Arabian oil products at "excessive prices."

"We can't find what happened to this 1943 offer or even find the papers concerning it," Brewster said. "The Government supplied \$80,000,000 worth of lend-lease aid to Saudi Arabia but we got nothing for it."

He said Krug, as Interior Secretary took over the wartime records of both Ickes and Davies, who were chief and deputy of the petroleum administration for war. But Brewster said "Krug's office has been unable to find the papers."

Brewster said the Senate Committee wants to question Davies, a former vice president of California Standard Oil Company, about any part he may have had in the Arabian oil transactions and wartime oil prices.

The chairman said Ickes has agreed to testify Friday about these matters and the hearing "should clear up all angles of the 'Arabian oil deals'."

Rural Mail Pay

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AP)—Rural mail carriers today pleaded for an \$800 increase in take-home pay, declaring the present \$307.60 top annual average income is seriously depleted by the high cost of operating a car.

Jewish-Arab Situation---The 49th Day

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (AP)—Forty-nine days after the bitterly disputed U. N. decision to divide Palestine nearly 1000 persons have been killed. The hospitals are choked with wounded.

Jews are on the offensive. The British are evacuating some of their heavy armament.

The Holy Land's war threatens to become international.

That, in brief, is the situation. The Arabs are still in the stage of guerrilla warfare. Individual gangs carry on sniping, killing and pillaging. Leadership of the Palestine Arab fighters so far has been on the "sheikdom" basis, with the venerated leaders in each community taking the lead in organizing, arming and directing his people.

Council of Judaism Head Speaks

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 17 (AP)—Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism, called upon the nation's Jews tonight to "dedicate ourselves worthily to the formation of that great amalgam which is emerging, known as the American people."

In his presidential message, delivered at the opening of the Council's Annual National Conference, Rosenwald declared "the term 'Jew' has come to be applied both to suspected of being enemies, mine their roads and man road blocks."

Jewish military leadership is unified and efficient except for a continuing stalemate in negotiations for the wedding of Hagana, the Jewish agency militia, Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern gang.

This leadership consists mainly of colonels, majors and captains who trained and served in the British army or in various European undergrounds.

Some Jewish spokesmen admit they may be unable to hold the borders of the Jewish state as delineated by the United Nations. But they look to friendly big powers, particularly the United States, either to lead the United Nations into sending an international police force or to supply arms and money for the Jews' own fight.

That is where the international phase comes in. The formal participation of neighboring Arab states in what so far has been a fight of band against band and village against village might speed the dispatch of an outside force.

If the United Nations left it to the United States to enforce partition, many observers believe it is hardly likely any American troops would come here without Soviet troops showing up, too. If an international force were sent, Russia could be expected to have considerable say in that.

Mexican Food Plans

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 17 (AP)—Agriculture Secretary Nazario Ortiz Garza says the administration plans to have Mexico producing all her principal foods by 1952.

Soviet Diplomacy

Romanian Leader's Statement Hints Russia Ready to Consolidate Its Grip

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—Romanian Communist Premier Georgi Dimitroff's declaration for an Eastern European federation suggested tonight that Russia is about ready to undertake final steps for permanently consolidating its grip over the nations behind the "Iron Curtain."

Dimitroff's statements in a news conference at Bucharest do not change the nature of Communist opposition to the Marshall Plan for European recovery. They do make that opposition much clearer. They probably explain why it was inevitable, since any co-operation between Eastern European states and Western Europe under the Marshall Plan would have complicated greatly, if not prevented, the achievement of the projected federation.

Washington authorities in their initial reaction to Dimitroff's assertions said the Bulgarian Premier had not actually contributed any new ideas to information about Communist objectives for the Eastern bloc. They emphasize that what he has done is put those objectives on record, more simply and with greater authority behind them, than has heretofore been done.

Some diplomatic experts regard the Bulgarian Communist as probably the most powerful figure in the party outside Russia. His words therefore are given considerable weight by American officials as representing probable top party policy.

American and other Western power officials have been convinced for months the Russians were working toward an Eastern European federation which might some day lead either to the creation of a great Slav nation or to the absorption of the lands immediately behind the "Iron Curtain" into the Soviet system.

That is the explanation which has been given by best informed authorities, both here and in London, to the extensive system of trade treaties and other pacts which the Communist governments have been negotiating among themselves since the end of the war. It is also the principal explanation which has been advanced for the Communist crackdown in Hungary last year, and for the progressive elimination of all non-Communist leadership in the states where the Communists control the governments.

Whether the Russians and the non-Russian Communists can carry out their objective is another matter.

Pro-Soviet Balkan Bloc Is Foreseen

BUCHAREST, Jan. 17 (AP)—Georgi Dimitroff, Communist Premier of Bulgaria, today said Eastern European nations within the Soviet orbit intend, when the time is ripe, to form a federation of states as allies of Russia.

Declaring talk of such a federation is premature now, Dimitroff said first of all these nations will form a customs union. Then, he added:

"But, when the time is ripe, then our peoples of the popular democracies will decide whether it shall be a federation or confederation of states, and they will also decide the moment when it shall take the shape of a state."


The Bulgarian leader listed as members of the projected group "Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and even Greece."

He said the federation planned to co-operate with Russia on a large scale and "if possible," would also seek trade relations with the United States, Britain and France "on the principle of complete equality."

Dimitroff came to Bucharest to sign a 20-year treaty of friendship, collaboration and mutual assistance with Romania.

Arline Decides

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 17 (AP)—Arline Judge, Bridgeport-born movie actress, has decided, she announced today, to ask her divorce-seeking husband, Henry J. (Bob) Topping Jr., of Greenwich, to describe her alleged acts of intolerable cruelty, as well as temporary alimony and counsel fees.



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