

Time Grows Short in Palestine

Jews Open Their Battle for Jerusalem, Seize Strong Points; U. N. Efforts Failing

U. N. Truce Team Unable to Get Jews, Arabs to Talk; U. S. Plan For City Control Coolly Received

British Threaten Plane Attack; Arab Nations Reject Blitz Idea, Map Plans for War of Attrition

By the Associated Press

LAKE SUCCESS, April 30—United Nations truce attempts for Palestine appeared tonight to have collapsed.

The Security Council truce commission reported in a telegram from Jerusalem that the general situation in Palestine is deteriorating rapidly.

It said fighting is intensifying steadily and that normal activities are coming to a standstill.

Another telegram, not yet made public, was reported to have said the American-Belgian-French truce commission was unable thus far to bring Jews and Arabs together to talk terms.

The Arab Higher Committee for Palestine blasted hopes here for a truce inside the walled city of Jerusalem.

U. S. PROPOSAL

The United States, however, presented an urgent plan to the Trusteeship Council for a temporary trusteeship to save Jerusalem. A night session of the council discussed the plan but adjourned without reaching a decision. (See page 4.)

The Arab committee's delegate, Jamal Husseini, said the new Jewish offensive in modern Jerusalem had wiped out all hopes for a truce in the walled area.

The Trusteeship Council still considered, however, that its cease-fire agreement stood for the old city which contains relics sacred to three great religions. It hoped to send a formal cease-fire order to both sides tomorrow.

The 58-nation Political Committee of the special U. N. Assembly on Palestine interrupted debate on a United States plan for U. N. trusteeship over Palestine to hear the truce commission's report of failure to bring Jews and Arabs together.

TELEGRAM READ

In the telegram read by Dr. Alfonso Lopez of Colombia, the retiring April president of the Security Council, the truce commission said:

"General situation in Palestine deteriorating rapidly. Government departments are closing daily and normal activities of the country are coming to a stand-still. . . . Intensity of fighting is increasing steadily. . . . Rumors are tending to increase the nervous tension in the country."

It was understood the second telegram, which Dr. Lopez was said to have refused to read out in full committee, reported the Jewish Agency had laid down terms which made a truce doubtful. The Jews were said to be demanding free immigration into Palestine and retirement of Arab armed forces from Palestine. Both have been repeatedly opposed by the Arabs.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine protested to the U. N. against Dr. Lopez withholding the telegram.

TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS

An informed source said Dr. Lopez did not read the message because it related only to the true negotiations. He was said to have decided to read the telegram on the general situation because he thought the whole committee should know the present conditions.

Moshe Shertok, Jewish Agency representative, said that while he could not agree now to the council's cease-fire order without further instructions, there actually is no firing within the old walled city.

Sherok said the Jews must have rights of movement to and from the walled city. He said he would ask the Agency in Palestine if he could agree to the cease-fire now, with truce terms to be drawn up later.

Secretary-General Trygve Lie, obviously irked by the slow progress, told a news conference the special Assembly probably would be in session from two to six weeks more. It started its third week Friday forenoon. If Lie's prediction is correct, the Assembly will still be in session when the British mandate ends.

By the Associated Press

JERUSALEM, April 30—Jewish shock troops threw a headlock tonight around a string of Arab strongpoints in a 22-hour battle for Jerusalem.

Fighting in the southern section of the Holy City halted for a time when Arab fighters asked for a truce. Then the struggle was resumed as two heavy explosions rocked the battered Katamon area.

(Meanwhile, according to United Press, Arab nations reportedly agreed after a momentous conference in Amman, Trans-Jordan, to abandon the idea of a blitzkrieg invasion of Palestine, and instead to attempt a war of attrition against the Jews after May 15.

(The military leaders of five Arab nations were said to have discarded any idea of a power invasion because they lack sufficient trained troops and modern arms.

(Arab sources were still reporting, however, that the threatened invasion of Palestine by regular army troops of neighboring Arab states was under way. An Arab news agency dispatch received in Damascus said troops of Iraq and Trans-Jordan entered Palestine this afternoon. There was no immediate confirmation. The Syrian army moved southward to springboard positions from which it might launch a drive into Northern Palestine.)

45 KILLED

Fifteen Jews and 30 Arabs are known to have been killed thus far in what is reportedly the showdown battle for Jerusalem.

Just before the brief halt in the struggle, a Jewish Agency spokesman said the British district commissioner had sent word to the Jews that if the battle were continued "Britain would use all its arms, including air power," against Jewish sections of Jerusalem.

(United Press reported that, following the British ultimatum, British guns started lobbing shells into the Jewish positions but, after 30 minutes, the Arabs counter-attacked and truce attempts were abandoned.

(Other Jewish forces occupied—without firing a shot—the strategic General Post Office building which controls the center of the city and were fighting at Mahla, Mahla is an Arab village on Jerusalem's outskirts through which Arab reinforcements were trying to approach the Holy City.)

JAFFA AREA

On the Palestine coast other Jewish units moved into Salama, a little more than a mile from Jaffa. The Jews were reported unofficially to have seized also the neighboring town of Yazar on the Jaffa-Jerusalem highway. An iron ring thus has been closed around the Arab port city of Jaffa if Yazar as well as Salama now is in Jewish hands. (See page 4.)

Arab commanders rushed reinforcements of irregular volunteers from Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron to bolster their sagging lines in Jerusalem. Word spread through the streets of the Holy City that this was the decisive struggle for control.

The Jews seized Shahin hill and occupied a monastery which formerly was the summer residence of the Greek Orthodox patriarch. Police reports said the Arabs had surrounded the 200 Jewish fighters inside the monastery.

One Jewish source said the Jews brought up a "secret weapon," believed to be a heavy rocket gun, when Arabs began encircling the structure. The Arabs had used the building as a headquarters.

The Jews claimed a large number of Arabs have begun evacuating the Katamon quarter.

Haganah, the Jewish militia, carried out the operations in Jerusalem and in the region around Jaffa.

Military Defense of Western European Union

Britain, France, Low Countries Map Joint Action

Marshall Plan Nations May Get American Arms

By the United Press

LONDON, April 30—Great Britain, France and the Low Countries set up a permanent military organization today to defend their alliance against attack.

The action came as diplomats reported the United States and the alliance have agreed to establish a Western German government in September with broad control over domestic affairs.

Defense Ministers of the two big powers, plus Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, issued a terse communique saying the permanent committee "will examine the common defense problems within the scope of the Brussels treaty."

The note did not disclose the scope of discussions, which British government sources said were based on the assumption of substantial support soon from the United States. The structure of the military committee likewise was withheld.

TWO-BRANCH CONGRESS

The plan for Western Germany was reported tentative. Diplomats said a two-branch congress, comparable to that of the United States, would be established by September 1 to take over law making.

This would be followed by a gradual assumption of authority over internal affairs within Western Germany. The occupational powers, the U. S., Britain and France, would retain supervision over German foreign policy, exports and imports, the informants said.

(The tentative German plan was outlined in more detail in an exclusive Chicago Daily News Foreign Service dispatch in Friday's Chronicle.)

Informed sources said, that in general terms, the Defense Ministers were there to discuss standardization of arms, development of a network of air bases with common equipment, fixed quotas for training and maintaining a defense force, and creation of a high command to blueprint defensive action.

50-YEAR PACT

The nations signed a 50-year military, political and economic treaty in Brussels March 17. The meeting here is the first on military cooperation. The nations already have talked of financial and economic problems.

The Ministers are expected to sit in closed session for a day or so to make a start and then turn the job over to a military committee. Their military chiefs are on hand to help them.

One task before them is to set down what their countries have to give and what they need in war material for the common defense.

British government officials say the Alliance has been given informal assurances that U. S. military material will be forthcoming once its defense plan is finished.

Gen. Vandenberg

By the United Press

WASHINGTON, April 30 Senator Connolly (D., Texas) confirmed today that the Administration is drafting a program of American military aid to Western Europe.

The Texan, ranking Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said a formal legislative request for authority to ship arms and munitions to Europe may be ready for submission to Congress next week. He said the project is being drafted by the State Department.

One congressional source usually in close touch with Administration strategy had said President Truman would present the arms plan in a special message to Congress next

Editorial comment, page 10

week. But today White House Press Secretary Charles G. Ross denied the President intended to send any such message. That presumably meant the State Department planned to submit the proposal without an accompanying recommendation from the President.

BACKING FOR ERP

The plan being drafted would authorize President Truman to send tanks, planes, guns and other military equipment to any of the 16 Marshall Plan nations to help defend the big economic recovery investment this country is making there.

Connolly said he discussed the program this afternoon with Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett.

It is understood the plan will be based largely on a military aid provision which the House originally wrote into the Marshall Plan bill and then deleted at the request of the State Department. The department at the time was said to have feared tying military aid to the economic program might furnish the Communists with damaging propaganda material for the April Italian elections.

No specific amount of money has been settled on for the arms deliveries, but there were reports the department is considering anywhere from \$100,000,000 to \$300,000,000.

'WESTERN UNION' SUPPORT

The five members of the "Western Union" of European nations which recently signed a 50-year defensive alliance at Brussels are reported to have asked the United States already for arms to shore up their pact. The State Department, however, is said to favor extending military help to all 16 Western European States rather than to the five-power bloc—Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

If the new proposals follow the lines of the original House provision, they would authorize the President to send arms to any Western European nation whenever he determined that the security and national interest of this country warranted it.

Mr. Truman already has promised that the United States will support

Altitude Indicator Order Canceled

WASHINGTON, April 30 (AP)—The Civil Aeronautics Board today canceled an order which would