

STERN GROUP TELLS AIMS

'Not Bound by Palestine Truce'

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TEL AVIV, June 10 (By Wire-
less)—Announcement by the under-
ground Stern Group — "The
Fighters for the Freedom of
Israel"—that it does not regard
itself bound to respect the Palestine
truce has been received with
dread by most responsible Jews
here. They point out that if the
Stern Group defies the United Nations'
cease-fire order it may be
rendered completely ineffective.

However, this possibility doesn't
worry a Stern Group spokesman
with whom I had an exclusive
interview. When I suggested that
the Arab states would certainly
seize on activity by his organization
as breaking the Jewish agreement,
he asked coldly:

"What have the Arab states to
do with Palestine?"

"We are fighting," he said, "for
the liberation of all Palestine—
Palestine Arabs as well as Jews—
from foreign domination.

"We have pledged support to the
government of Israel," he con-
tinued, "But the government of
Israel is no more responsible for
our activities outside the bound-
aries of Israel than for the acts of
individual Jews in America."

I asked him how he squared
the Stern Group's pledged support
of the Israel government with his
declaration that the group
wouldn't be bound by a cease-fire
order "anywhere, any time."

His face relaxed into a faint
smile.

"The boundaries of the state of
Israel," he said "have never been
exactly determined."

The interview reflected sharply
the secrecy still cloaking the
Stern Group, which still is fight-
ing its own underground war for
what it regards as the only "true"
solution of Palestine's problems.

It is fighting a war in which it
chooses its own tactics, weapons
and roads, asking no advice of
Jews within the government of
Israel or in the United States.

I had requested an interview a
week ago through contacts here,
and, after several days a very

pretty young lady called on me
and said she understood that I
was interested in learning about
"our movement," which was never
once mentioned by name.

This morning she came, with a
driver, and took me to an apart-
ment in an upper-class building.
There I was greeted pleasantly—
but without introductions, which
are unthinkable in the under-
ground—by a stocky, square-
faced man in brown trousers, blue
work shirt open at the throat, and
a face which at a guess one might
say was Slavic.

With him was an intense young
man to interpret.

There was nothing in the ap-
pearance of the spokesman to
suggest that he was a leading fig-
ure in a group that has coolly
acknowledged that it "executed"
Lord Moyne and many other po-
litical enemies and has made
studies of the techniques of bomb-
ing and assassination.

He smiled only once—when I
asked him about reports that his
movement was financed by Rus-
sia. This he declared was utterly
without foundation, although it
was quite true, he said, that the
Stern Group long ago decided
that Russia was its natural ally—
as it hopes America will be, also.

An extremely earnest man, he
anxiously tried to correct what
he termed a false picture created
by stories of his organization's
activities.

"True, we've been responsible
for many bombings and many
killings—of enemies, of course,"
he said. "Many of the stories
about us are true, but they're
all wrong in the way they've been
presented."

The true aims of the fighters
for freedom of Israel, he said, are
very simple, based on three main
objectives:

First, complete freedom for all
of Palestine (by which he ex-
plained that he meant to include
that part of Palestine now ruled
by King Abdullah and known as
Trans-Jordan).

Second, complete freedom for
all the peoples of Middle Eastern
countries.

Third, creation through these
free peoples of a great neutral
bloc in the Middle East, free of
domination by foreign imperialism
—by which he made plain that
he referred chiefly to British im-
perialism and imperialism of "cer-
tain elements" in the United
States.

He was vehement in denounc-
ing the partition scheme that
creates a split in the Jewish-Arab
economy.

"One of the first principles of
our movement," he said, "is that
the Arabs and Jews must be uni-
fied territorially, not on a racial
basis. We must liquidate the split
in economy between the two and
assure complete national rights for
Arabs as well as Jews."

Granting national rights to the
Arabs would, he declared, include
voting.

"Our program is not intended
for the present," he said. "It is
intended for the day when full
liberation is realized on both sides
of the Jordan. Then Jews in
masses—millions of them—will
stream in, and the question of
an Arab majority will no longer
exist."

Americans who want to see
peace in Palestine, he declared
repeatedly, should harken to the
policies of Henry Wallace. Told
that even many Jews in Palestine
are charging that his group has
been supported in the last year
by Russian contributions and in
this time has changed its policies
to support the Soviets, he laughed
and denied vigorously that the
policy was ever changed.

"Our funds," he said, "come
from two sources—contributions
and confiscations."

The last sizable "confiscation,"
he said, was the seizure of nearly
\$1,000,000 from Barclay's Bank
here in what ordinary people
called a robbery.

Foreign policies that waver
Win us hardly any favor.

—edb