

Tension in Palestine

Government Denies Haganah Report Of Many Arabs Killed During Attack

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (AP)—A Haganah leader declared today that between 80 and 85 Arabs were killed and about 145 wounded by Jewish defenders of Tel Aviv during an Arab attack last night, but Government officials said "that's bunk."

A public information officer commented in a statement:

"Police who were there and who investigated afterward say there is absolutely nothing to it. Maybe a few were killed, but no great number."

(Meanwhile in London authoritative Government sources said Britain was considering suspension of shipments of military equipment and ammunition to certain Middle Eastern countries because of Arab threats of war against the partition of Palestine.)

(A Foreign Office spokesman refused to comment but said the subject might be dealt with Thursday by government speakers in a House of Commons debate on the Holy Land. The spokesman emphasized that "a special government-level decision" would be required to suspend the supply of arms this country has contracted under treaties to sell to various Arab states. The amount of material involved is a secret.)

(The U. S. State Department announced last week that American licensing of arms and military equipment shipments bound for the Middle East had been suspended in view of the troubled conditions there.)

The leader of Haganah, Jewish

defense militia now fighting openly after years as an underground organization, said he headed the taxicab army of Jews which beat off the two-hour attack upon Tel Aviv's Hatikvah quarter by Arabs armed with machine guns and grenades.

Most neutral observers were inclined to discount his report of the casualties as a statement intended to revive Jewish spirits after 10 days of violence in which almost 70 Jews have been killed and hundreds wounded in Palestine.

Four Jews were reported killed today in sporadic outbursts in the area of Tel Aviv, increasing the total dead, including both Jews and Arabs, to 105.

IN SYRIA

Damascus, Syria, a "Palestine liberation committee" declared it was sending into Palestine Arab volunteers trained in commando tactics.

But the fury of the Arab attacks in Palestine itself appeared to be abating.

Two Jews were reported slain by Arab snipers, but the other two deaths came in the course of attacks on British armored cars, said by Jewish sources to have been perpetrated by "dissident Jewish groups," possibly the Underground Stern group.

In those attacks, gasoline bombs were hurled at four armored cars, and four other armored cars were fired upon in the Tel Aviv area. Police sprayed the streets with bullets. Several Jews were wounded, and two armored car commanders were hurt.

More About The Arabs And Palestine

Continued from Page 1
taking partition to the International Court of Justice.

Premier Salih Jabr of Iraq is on record as favoring this plan.

Any such move, as well as the application by Egypt and Lebanon to take part in U. N. Security Council debate in New York, would be regarded in diplomatic quarters here as a maneuver to delay action on partition as long as possible.

Discussion of the possibility of penalizing American oil interests because of United States support of partition is expected to come up as soon as Emir Feisal, chief delegate of Saudi Arabia to the U. N., arrives here.

ECONOMIC BOYCOTT

(The Associated Press said, however, that Arab leaders are not now considering an economic boycott of the nations which supported Palestine partition because such actions as canceling oil concessions are deemed unlikely to help the Arab cause at present.)

(Abdel Krim, Riff warrior chieftain, who led Moroccan Arabs against the French and Spanish two decades ago, said the contribution of North African Arabs in the Palestine fight would be disclosed soon. He conferred with Abdel Rahman Azzah Pasha, secretary general of the Arab League, and announced: "It will be more beneficial to Palestine Arabs to see our deeds than hear our statements." Abdel Krim escaped from French custody in Egypt last spring after 21 years of exile on Reunion island, and was given refuge by the Egyptian government.)

Banker Calls