

British Wash Hands of King Abdullah Army

London, May 18 (P) — Britain disclaimed responsibility Tuesday for the activities of King Abdullah's British-trained British-officered Arab legion in the Arab-Jewish struggle for supremacy in Palestine.

A foreign office spokesman told newsmen the affairs of the legion are "not a matter of concern to Britain since her surrender of the League of Nations mandate in the Holy Land Saturday.

The spokesman sidestepped specific questions on the legion, which received a grant of 2 million pounds (8 million dollars) a year from the British treasury under a treaty signed early this year. The foreign office would not disclose its position on John Glubb Pasha, brigadier commanding the legion. Glubb is a permanent major in the British reserves but is over age and not subject to British call for active service.

An Associated Press dispatch from Ramallah, Palestine, said Glubb had inspected positions the legion took up in central Palestine after three days of methodical operations. Glubb, wearing the red and white headdress of the legion, toured forward gunposts in the Judean and Samaritan hills, the advisers said.

The foreign office would not say what Britain would do about other British officers detached for service with the Arab legion who still are eligible for service in Britain's forces. Previously government officials had reported that such officers would be recalled if the Arab legion was used in attacks on the

Jews outside the area earmarked for Arab control under the United Nations partition plan for Palestine.

* * *

Arab Legionnaires Make Easy Advance

Ramallah, Palestine, May 18 (P) — Trans-Jordan Arab legionnaires are strongly established in central Palestine after three days of methodical operations, almost without firing a shot.

(Ramallah, in the heart of that portion of Palestine marked Arab by the United Nations partition plan, is ten miles northwest of Jerusalem and 15 miles west of the Trans-Jordan border.)

Legion outposts are within five miles of Jerusalem on the north and south.

In a pocket-size country like this, legion guns defending Arab territory need to move forward only six or eight miles to bring the outskirts of Tel Aviv, temporary capital of Israel, within range.

In excitable Arab towns such as Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus, the appearance of the legion in force lifted the population from gloom to jubilation. Hundreds of military age men once again are brandishing rifles and racing about the country in trucks, singing war songs. These are irregulars, or "stragglers," as they are called in Arabic, and it is not hard to understand why they have been so ineffective in the guerrilla warfare against the Jews since December.

The Arab in a well-trained, well-outfitted force like the legion is an entirely different sort of fighting man.