

# Mideast disagrees on Israel withdrawal

JERUSALEM AP—Israel welcomed Egypt's readiness to make peace Sunday but rejected Cairo's demand that Israeli troops withdraw from occupied Arab territory.

Cairo called the Israeli response, issued after an all-day Cabinet meeting, a "flat rejection" of proposals offered by U.N. mediator Gunnar V. Jarring.

The Israeli communique said the Cabinet viewed "favorably" Egypt's offer to end the conflict, but said Israel would never return to the borders that existed before the six-day war in June 1967.

Premier Golda Meir's Cabinet said it wanted "meaningful negotiations" with Egypt on all subjects related to a peace agreement.

The communique said Israel is "ready to discuss withdrawal of armed forces toward secure, recognized and agreed boundaries to be established in peace agreements."

It added: "The government of Israel reiterates its position . . . that it will not withdraw to the armistice line of June 4, 1967—the boundaries existing before Israel captured the Sinai Desert in the war.

In Cairo, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the decision "reaffirms Israeli expansionist policy, which contradicts the Security Council's 1967 resolution and violates the U.N. charter."

Cairo radio reported the Israeli Cabinet announcement and described it as a "twisted reply."

The 1967 resolution, passed five months after the six-day war, calls for, among other things Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist within "secure and recognized boundaries" and for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Considerable world attention was focused on the Israeli Cabinet meeting, which was called to work out a reply to Egypt's peace proposal given to Jarring in New York last Wednesday.

Joseph Sisco, U.S. assistant secretary of state, described the meeting as "one of the most decisive hours for Israel and the United States."

The communique called for a continuation of discussions under Jarring's auspices with "the aim of reaching an agreed peace treaty between the two states."

It said the Cairo proposition demon-

strated the "concrete differences between Egypt's position and that of Israel and particularly the substantial gap which exists on the issue of borders and refugees."

The Egyptian offer of peace was attached to the condition of total Israeli withdrawal and settlement of the Palestinian refugee problem.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, commenting in a broadcast after the Cabinet session, said the withdrawal demand has no legal basis. The U.N. Security Council resolution of November 1967 that forms the framework of the Middle East negotiations, he said, calls not for a return to the former borders but to secure and recognized frontiers.

"We cannot be expected to accept the Egyptian positions in advance of the negotiations and we don't expect Egypt to accept the Israeli position before discussion," he said.

This appeared to be an amplification by Eban of the communique text, which said: "The negotiations should not be subject to prior commitments on the outstanding issues."

There was no mention of March 7 in

the text. This is the new deadline set by Egypt for the Suez Canal cease-fire, in effect since Aug. 7 and already twice renewed by Cairo.

Reliable sources said that in the official reply through Jarring to Egypt the Israelis would recommend that this deadline be ignored so as to provide a better atmosphere for continuing political contacts.

There was no mention in the communique of possible direct talks now between Israel and Egypt.

Israel Galili, the information minister and a close associate of Mrs. Meir, challenged Egypt on Saturday to prove its intentions by face-to-face negotiations, something Cairo always has refused.

Observers pointed out that in previous Jerusalem declarations in a Middle East settlement, heavy stress was laid on the formula of no withdrawal without peace.

Now that Cairo has indicated a readiness to make peace, these observers detect the emphasis switching to the often-declared stand of withdrawal, but not to the old lines, which left Israeli populated areas within easy range of Arab attacks.

## White House asks probe

WASHINGTON AP—The White House has asked for a report on Saturday's false alert from the national emergency warning center. One official said Sunday "those responsible at NORAD will see that it does not happen again."

NORAD is the North American Air Defense Command within Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, Colo., that is responsible for warning the nation of any imminent nuclear attack.

The false warning was a result of the insertion of a wrong tape into a teletype system that said the President had directed a notification of emergency action and that all normal broadcasting was to stop immediately and that the warning was to be broadcast.

The White House, officials said, still wants to know just how this happened and why. They said Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has asked for a report.

Meanwhile, an official at the Civil Defense National

Emergency Warning Center in a \$144-million underground fortress in Cheyenne Mountain said Sunday a slight change in procedures has been made to try to prevent a recurrence of Saturday's mishap.

W. S. Eberhardt, an Army civilian employee who had worked at the center for 15 years, was supposed to have transmitted a routine test tape on the news circuits Saturday.

Hanging on three labeled hooks above his transmitter were the test tape and two other emergency tapes that had never been sent before. Eberhardt transmitted one of the emergency tapes, later saying, "I can't imagine how the hell I did it."

Louis I. Smoyer, the civilian in charge of the center, said the emergency tapes now have been put in a filing cabinet, out of immediate reach. The test tape normally sent on Saturday mornings will remain on the hook.

"The emergency tapes have been put in clearly marked separate envelopes inside a filing cabinet adjacent to the transmitting equipment so it is impossible for the duty officer to get hold of the wrong tape," Smoyer said.

Smoyer said that so far the use of the filing cabinet is the only change in procedures contemplated.

"We still have to have the tapes available for use in an emergency, but we've got to be sure the man working under stress or strain can't reach for the wrong tape," Smoyer said.

"Now with the filing cabinet, the man has to pull open a door and reach in and identify what's in the envelope before transmitting anything," he said. "It won't take the man any length of time and the cabinet won't be locked."

"It might take him 20 or 30 seconds longer, but he must know he is reaching for the emergency tapes."

## News Roundup

from AP reports

NEW YORK AP—For the first time, Soviet advisers are fighting black Africans and helping the Arab government of Sudan bomb black villages, Time magazine reported Sunday. In its March 1 issue, the newsmagazine said about 100 Russians have participated since September in ground operations in three southern provinces. It said that, besides another 400 Soviet advisers, 50 East Germans are also advising Sudan's Interior Ministry in Khartoum. The magazine claimed Russians have "almost certainly" flown helicopters into combat against the blacks, and may have joined Egyptian pilots on bombing missions. The Russians are also training pilots to fly Soviet MIG jets, Time said. The six million blacks in the south demand autonomy in a federation, claiming they will never receive real authority from the three million Arabs in the north, who seized 796 of the available 800 government posts when the country gained independence in 1956, the magazine said. There are also three million black Africans in the north. The southern insurgents are receiving arms and supplies from Israel and sanctuary from Ethiopia, Time said.

PHILADELPHIA—Six policemen have died across the country this weekend. Two Philadelphia policemen were killed in their patrol cars within several hours of each other in separate incidents this weekend, while in Greenville, S.C., an officer was shot dead in a gunfight. Another policeman died in Silver Springs, Md., when the service revolver of a fellow officer discharged during a struggle with a kidnap suspect. In St. John, Ind., the town marshal and a state trooper were killed Saturday in a shootout with two men found sleeping in a parked car behind a school building.

LONDON AP—Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson claimed Sunday that Britain is heading toward a serious economic recession. "All the signs are that we are spiralling into a serious recession and that unemployment will get a good deal worse," Wilson said in a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

## Nader cites electric medicine

NEW YORK AP—Consumer advocate Ralph Nader says at least 1,200 Americans "are electrocuted annually" during cardiac care and other treatment at hospitals because of faulty equipment and staff unpreparedness.

"A shock-hazard epidemic of critical proportions exists in our hospitals," said Nader, contending most of the deaths "invariably . . . are listed as cardiac arrest." Nearly all could be prevented, he said.

Nader commented in an article in the March issue of Ladies Home Journal.

"Since the advent of the heart pacemaker and cardiac catheterization, the hospital environment has become so dangerous that today it is the site of more electrical accidents than any industry except mining," he said.

He cited one case involving a 52-year-old heart patient who was killed when an electric current leaked from an external pacemaker and became grounded in his electrically operated hospital bed.

"Most electrocutions happen in just this way," said Nader. "Most of the time, the patient is connected not to one but to several electrical devices. In such an environment, the risk is extremely great that a stray current will complete a circuit to ground through the patient."

In most hospitals, Nader said, safety measures that can reduce risks "are grossly neglected or even unknown among hospital staffs."

"For years, physicians operated these devices

without recognizing either their potential hazards or the actual fatalities the caused," he said. "Even how that there is greater understanding, precautionary measures are inadequate."

Nader said only three hospitals in the country have biomedical engineers on their staffs to supervise the operation of complex machines—Downstate Medical Center in New York City, Sinai Hospital in Baltimore and Charles S. Wilson Hospital in Johnson City, N.Y.

Nader also scored equipment manufacturers, some of whom he said market devices "without making them fail-safe against even the most common mistakes of operators."

"Often the grounding devices furnished with electrical equipment are weak, easily broken and not designed for rough handling," he said. "They are not remotely foolproof, not fail-safe and not even reliable."

Nader said few hospitals, even the newer ones, have adequate electric wiring systems.

The estimate of 1,200 deaths annually was conservative, he said, and "might be 10 times as high."

Last November, a study prepared in the School of Medicine at Wayne State University surveyed cardiac care equipment at 12 major American hospitals and found "significant deficiencies" at all 12. The findings were released at a convention of the American Heart Association. No fatalities were cited.

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