

# U.S. Defense Department Sending Another Shipment of Military Goods to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department confirmed Wednesday it is sending Saudi Arabia another shipment of military goods. It added that sale of the equipment, mainly ammunition and spare parts, was arranged months ago.

While the Pentagon wouldn't disclose the value of the shipment, the State Department said less

than on million dollars was in port.

A Pentagon spokesman told the shipment when asked about a New York Post story that military cargo for Saudi Arabia was being loaded aboard the 6,714-ton freighter Monterey at a North Carolina

Official said the sale to the Arab country was originally approved last Aug. 23, along with a controversial order for 18 M-41 Walker Bulldog light tanks. Shipment of the tanks to Saudi Arabia last February raised an interna-

tional furor.

As was the case with the tank order, this latest shipment was paid for on Nov. 26, officials said.

A State Department press officer, Lincoln White, said the items being loaded aboard the Monterey at Sunny Point, N.C., do not in-

clude any major weapons such as tanks or jet planes.

White said the cargo was covered in a State Department announcement last February that 16 million dollars worth of arms orders from the Middle East had been approved. These included

about seven million dollars worth from Saudi Arabia.

"Obscure Port"

When a newsmen asked why "an obscure port" like Sunny Point was being used for the shipment, White said he did not know unless it was a matter of "convenience of the shipper."

The Pentagon would not supply specific information on the goods involved but some officials said it would be logical to conclude that they included shells for the 76 mm guns of the M-41 tanks.

A diplomatic storm was raised

in February when the then-impending tank shipment was disclosed. Israel called it "beyond comprehension" and some Democratic senators denounced it as upsetting the military balance in the Middle East.

President Eisenhower called off

the shipment, then lifted the embargo within 48 hours. An official statement said it was decided that the dispatch of the tanks and other items would be in line with U.S. policies of promoting the peace and defensive strength of Israel and the Arab states.

## Jordan River Pact Likely, Johnston Says

By WARREN ROGERS JR.  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Eric Johnston said Wednesday the odds are 5-1 that Israel and the Arab states will agree to joint development of the Jordan River within the next three or four years.

"There is no substitute, as all who have studied the plan from both sides will tell you," he said in an interview.

Johnston, President Eisenhower's special representative on the Middle East, said he was reluctant in 1953 to undertake what looked like a high impossible job.

"I told the President the odds were a thousand to one against it," he recalled. "But now the situation has so changed that I believe the odds are 5-1 in favor of the Arabs and Israelis accepting our plan or something like it within the next three or four years."

Five Trips

Johnston has made five trips to the troubled Middle East, talking to both sides in an effort to get a joint development plan launched in the Jordan Valley.

On his last visit, during the past fall, he was able to announce technical agreement. But political considerations—Israel and the Arabs still are officially at war—caused the Arabs to delay a final decision.

As Johnston put it at the time: "We are on the one-inch line but someone has called time out."

250 Million Dollars

The U.S.-backed idea called the Johnston Plan would cost about 250 million dollars. The United Nations would put up about 54 million, the United States the rest.

Briefly stated, the Johnston Plan would arrest the wasteful flow of more than a billion cubic meters of precious Jordan River water each year through the arid poverty-stricken Middle East. It would bring some 250,000 acres of three-crops-a-year land into production.

It would also lead toward a solution of the troubled area's thorny problem of what to do with nearly a million Arab refugees—by providing arable land for them to resettle on.

Small Engineering Problem

The engineering sounds quite simple: Two reservoirs, one in Israel's Sea of Galilee, and one on the Upper Yarmuk River, a Jordan tributary, in Arab territory. Two diversion dams, one on the Jordan north of the Sea of Galilee in Lebanon to serve Israel and Syria, and one on the lower Yarmuk for Jordan. It would take about five years.

The political problem is tough. The three Arab states involved, plus the five others which fought Israel in 1948, still do not recognize Israel's existence. That means they can have no diplomatic dealings with Israel. Nor can they agree on the borders of a state whose existence they deny. And resettlement of the Arabs displaced would also strike some Arabs as tacit recognition of Israel.

As Johnston sees it, the problem borders and refugees plus the status of Jerusalem—an emotion-laden issue centuries old—are the three major political problems in the Arab-Israeli dispute. But water, as he sees it, is the biggest problem of all, and it is non-political.

## U.S. Army Orders New French Cars

PARIS (AP)—The U.S. Army said Wednesday it has bought half a million dollars worth of French automobiles to replace the American sedans that have been in use for the past five years.

The Army announcement, released through the U.S. Embassy, said the Army had purchased 411 French Renault sedans.

The Army gave no price figures, since the transaction involved various interchanges of French francs and dollars, but the Renault sedan details at about \$1,500. With discounts and such the value of the cars involved is in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

The Army is also negotiating with the Renault firm to purchase 80 busses to replace Army busses now wearing out.

The automobile purchase marked the first time the U.S. Army has contracted in France for foreign made vehicles to replace American-made products.

The Army said it was also planning to use commercial Renault repair facilities which are available throughout France, rather than Army-run maintenance shops.

The new cars will be delivered about June first. The Army is now buying Renault sedans manufactured in 1949 and 1950.

IRAQ AIR POWER SHOWN

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Iraq showed off her air strength Tuesday in a three-hour demonstration marking the 25th anniversary of the Royal Iraq Air Force. Modern jet fighters and ancient Tiger Moths took part in a flypast before King Faisal. Delegations from other Arab countries and from Iraq's partners in the Baghdad Pact attended.

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