

Days for Jordan as Independent Kingdom Believed To Be Number

Editor's note: Joe A. Morris is a roving correspondent for United Press in the Middle East. He recently visited Jordan.

By JOE A. MORRIS
United Press Correspondent
Beirut, Lebanon—(U.P.)—Many Middle Eastern observers believe that the days are numbered for Jordan as an independent kingdom.

The political situation there is explosive. Twenty-one-year old King Hussein is working to shore up his position and save the monarchy, but his relations with left-wing Arab Nationalist Premier Suleiman Nabulsi are frosty and formal.

Opposing Stands
Hussein and Nabulsi take opposing stands on many major issues including the Eisenhower doctrine and the Communist threat in the Middle East.

Both support the "Arab liberation" movement and the "positive neutrality" group of Arab states which includes Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. But Hussein and Nabulsi differ on how to reach the goal of "Arab unity."

Nabulsi leans toward a federation of Jordan with Egypt and Syria which would later include other Arab states like Saudi Arabia. The armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria already are under the overall command of the Egyptian War ministry.

Blasts Communism
Hussein, surrounded by influential conservative politicians and under the influence of Queen Mother Zain, is said to be fully aware of the growing and dangerous Soviet influence in neighboring Syria. While he has not publicly supported the Eisenhower doctrine the young

king has blasted Communism and ordered steps to stamp it out in Jordan.

But the main topic in Jordan is not Communism but ridding the country of "British influence." The Anglo-Jordan military alliance ended March 14, forcing Jordan to look elsewhere for aid.

Observers fear that neighboring Arab states can now exert pressure which will topple Hussein. Jordan, they say, could be swallowed up by Syria, which during the Suez crisis sent troops into Jordan ostensibly to guard the borders against Israel.

Western diplomats speak guardedly but hopefully of a new alliance of anti-Communist states which would include Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Lebanon has been most outspoken in declaring that neutrality in the cold war is impossible.

Where Next?
The Jordanians have expelled the British but have not thrashed out where they go next.

Nabulsi has felt strong enough to ignore the king's anti-Communist directives. The king in turn felt strong enough to go over Nabulsi's head to confiscate a pro-Communist newspaper.

Nabulsi, a spell-binding orator, has one immense power in his hands—the streets. Mobs did millions of dollars in damage to Western and United Nations property a year ago.

It is a rare week when there are not two or three demonstrations. Police interfere only reluctantly. The narrow, dusty streets of Amman, the Jordanian capital, are jammed with Communists, Socialists and Nationalists.

Sometimes they are schoolgirls only eight years old, set free to demonstrate for "Arab unity" and against the anti-Communist Baghdad Pact.

The main post office of Amman reflects the tense truce. Both entrances are always sandbagged as protection against riots.

Among the more famous beds were some excavated from the tomb of King Tutankhamen—a bed of carved ebony and chased gold with foot panels and heads that represent animals. Another was Queen Elizabeth's I. of England—some 3,000 years later.

The wood was carved walnut, gilded. The canopy and valance were made of silver cloth and fringed with gold. The curtains were tapestry edged with gold lace. The headpiece was covered with crimson satin, decorated with seven dozen dyed ostrich plumes. The satin quilt counterpane was appliqued with gold-cloth figures.

While Elizabeth slept in this bed, off at the famous old tavern, Saracen's Head, 12 people—count 'em—were quartered at one time in the so-called Great Bed of Ware, now in the South Kensington museum, London. It was 12 feet square. Whether the 12 slept is a matter of conjecture.

But does that sleeping bag of yours feel any more comfortable now?

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There are about 14 million people in the United States over 65 years of age.

But does that sleeping bag of yours feel any more comfortable now?

Is That So?

Next time you wake up in your sleeping bag you might look up at the stars and consider how good you've got it. It was comparatively recently—in the last 150 years, you know—that people such as you and I got to sleep off the floor. In fact, over half the world's population still sleeps on the floor, and for "pillows" use blocks of wood.

Although the ruling classes in the Middle East—Persia, Baby-



lonia, Assyria and Egypt—slept on luxurious gem-encrusted beds 2,000 years and more ago, all the people of Europe still slept on piles of leaves or on evergreen boughs, or on animal skins. The first advance, made during the Middle Ages, was a sack of straw laid on a wooden bench with an animal's skin thrown over for cover.

Among the aristocracy, these benches were sometimes hidden away in tiny bare, unheated, cubby-holes with a curtain drawn across. This was called the bed "steal"—that is, the bed's "place." However, honored guests always slept in the big hall on stacks of straw on table benches while servants, retainers and fighting men slept together with the dogs on the floor surrounding the guests.

Those were dirt floors, of course, covered with straw or rushes, cleaned perhaps twice a year. Hair dripped into it, grease and bones and remnants of food dropped into it and oftentimes lay unclean and forgotten. In fact, our phrase "to leave no straw unturned" dates from these comparatively recent days—

to search for something as thoroughly as though it had dropped on the straw-covered floor. As well, the expression, "Not to care a straw for someone," meant the host did not care enough for a guest to break out

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Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(U.P.)—One of the hottest items in show business is not a chesty glamour girl or handsome profile, but 14 youngsters who collect more fan letters than most grown-up stars.



These children are known even in er, Mass., where the customers daily don little black hats with ears, face a TV set and sing "M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E..."

The Mouseketeers, stars of Walt Disney's daily ABC-TV show, "The Mickey Mouse Club," are so popular that even monthly rumors sweep the country that they have been injured in a car crash, public alarms heretofore restricted to only one other beloved star, Bing Crosby.

Reports Puzzle Director
"I don't know why those accident reports get around," said Bill Walsh, producer of the program, as he sat with director Sidney Miller on the Disney set where the 1957-58 series is being filmed.

Two little five-year-old Hawaiian girls who will be guest stars on the show were dancing a perfect hula on the rehearsal stage. Next door, veteran actor Jimmie Dodd, master-of-ceremonies, was filming a western scene with Mouseketeers Darlene, Sharon and Karen.

Outside the stage, were two red trailers, Disney's version of the little red schoolhouse. The Mouseketeers, aged 8 to 15, go to school there from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with four hours out

for work.

The most famous Mouseketeer is Annette Funicello, 15, one of the original mice when the show began in October, 1955. Although she's nearly grown-up, Annette still is on the program because she receives 20,000 fan letters a month.

Master-of-ceremonies Dodd, too, has won more fame from being upstaged by 14 moppets than from his movie roles. When he recently went on tour for Disney his fellow plane passengers burst into the Mouseketeer them song.

"I love working with these kids," said Dodd. "I feel as if they're my own—I have none at home."

MARRIED—Jean Harvey of Chicago (above) was married in Mexico City to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, well known sportsman and heir to one of America's great fortunes. They are honeymooning somewhere in Florida.



Non-Biting Fish Declared Sensible

Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—When fish won't bite, it might be because they're being "sensible" about it, a University of Wisconsin biologist claims.

Arthur D. Hasler said "fish sense" can inform them of the angler's arrival by sight, touch, odor or sound on the basis of Hasler's study of fish migration.

The biologist first conditioned a group of minnows to recognize chemical differences between two Wisconsin streams, but when the smelling mechanisms were destroyed, the minnows no longer responded to the training odors.

Laboratory experiments show that trained fish can locate the source of vibrations in experimental tanks. From this, Hasler thinks fish may be able to hear waves beating on the shoreline, since water carries sound better than air.

The setting sun might also act as a stimulus for migration, he explained, since perch are known to make migrations to the shore of a Madison lake at sundown.

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Jury Awards Widow \$15,000 Judgment

The Dalles—(U.P.)—A Circuit Court jury deliberated nearly seven hours here Friday night before awarding Mrs. Robert Welborn of The Dalles a \$15,000 judgment in a civil damage action.

Mrs. Welborn had brought suit in connection with the death of her husband last Aug. 7 in a collision between a car and a cattle-loaded truck and trailer unit.

Defendant's in the suit were Ronald Baker, 19, of Hermiston, driver for Athena cattle ranch operators Willis Johns, Morris Johns, James Smith, and Larry

Knowland Says There Should Be Tax Reduction

Washington—(U.P.)—Senate Republican Leader William F. Knowland said Saturday the administration must "put its house in order" for a general tax reduction next year, including lower personal and corporate income taxes and reduced excise levies.

He told reporters he thinks the tax bill scheduled for senate action this week will be the last one by which congress will vote an outright extension of taxes imposed during the Korean war.

Beamer. Welborn was a passenger in a car driven by William Strickler who also died in the crash. They were returning home from their work as painters at The Dalles dam.

FRANCHISE GRANTED
Ontario—(U.P.)—Officials of Eastern Oregon Natural Gas company which serves Malheur county announced Friday that the firm has been granted a franchise for distribution of natural gas in Milton-Freewater.

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