

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

NASSER'S BORDER GUARD

Gaza—it is still a secret in Cairo and the Western capitals; but here in the Gaza Strip it is easy enough to foresee the final stage of the transformation of the U. N. force in Egypt into "Nasser's border guard," as some of the officers call it.

This will be the clear result of the as yet unannounced deal that has been vigorously signed and sealed between U. N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld and his assistant, Dr. Ralph Bunche, on the one hand and Egypt's President Nasser on the other.

Hammarskjöld and Bunche have conceded another cardinal point to President Nasser. They have agreed that the U. N. patrols on the Israeli-Egyptian demarcation line will be accompanied by armed Palestine police under the command of the Egyptian civil governor of the Gaza Strip, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Abdul Latif.

The Egyptian controlled police will moreover have the right to use arms against border crossers. But the U. N. elements in the border patrols will not enjoy this rather essential military privilege.

IN return, President Nasser has also made certain concessions. Arrangements have been made which are presumed to increase the likelihood that Egyptian border crossers will really be punished by the Egyptian authorities. Furthermore, the accord, when published, will contain a positive statement by President Nasser—the first of the sort that he has made—positively condemning Egyptian border crossings into Israeli territory.

So ends a process remarkably like one of the old fashioned vaudeville "transformation acts", which has radically altered the real character and purpose of the U. N. force here in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere on the demarcation line.

How far U. N. Sec. Hammarskjöld actually expected or even desired this transformation, no one can judge from this vantage point. The facts have to stand for themselves.

On March 7, the Israeli Gen. Moshe Dayan, pale, thin lipped and coldly polite, handed over control of the Gaza Strip to U. N. Gen. Edson Burns, smart in his new horizon blue self-de-

signed U. N. uniform. At that time, both the world at large and General Burns expected the U. N. force to administer the Gaza Strip for an indefinite period. A military government section had been hastily organized for the purpose within General Burns staff.

THE entire basis of this expectation seems to have been a commitment given to Hammarskjöld by the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, that the Gaza Strip would be under U. N. administration until its future status could be settled by later negotiation.

President Nasser, however, had failed to give his personal endorsement to Dr. Fawzi's promise. In addition, no one seems to have thought very much about the probable meaning of the presence in the Gaza Strip of 220,000 tragic, passion inflamed refugees from Palestine who are, in the last analysis, almost wholly controlled by Egyptian agents.

The inevitable therefore occurred with great speed. The refugees rioted on order. The strictly non-shooting U. N. force had no means to control them. General Latif was forthwith appointed as civil governor and took over the administration on March 13. His appointment and authority have not yet been officially recognized by General Burns. But General Latif is an accomplished fact all the same. I went to see him and he appeared to have no doubts about it himself.

THUS the first stage of the transformation of the U. N. force into an Egyptian border guard was successfully accomplished. The process will of course be neatly rounded out by the new arrangement, to include an Egyptian controlled armed element in each U. N. border patrol.

The U. N. force presently occupies not only the Gaza Strip itself. Picket line elements are also posted at all the key points which block another Israeli advance into Egypt. Thus the shield is complete.

Meanwhile, the Cairo press has ceased proclaiming that the U. N. force would be invited to leave Egypt the very moment the last invader had departed from Egyptian soil. The question now, in fact, is whether the new U. N. guard on the Egyptian border is going to become a permanent fixture.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Water note:

Maj. Gen. Walter K. Wilson Jr., army engineers deputy chief for construction, told a gathering in Seattle the other day that industry all over the country now uses six times as much water as in 1900 and by 1975 will be using TWICE AS MUCH AS IT IS USING NOW.

He added: "Water, in all probability, will soon become the most important single factor in determining the location of new industrial plants."

INTERESTING agricultural note:

A house of representatives reclamation subcommittee has set May 6 for a hearing on a bill to ease restrictions on land ownership in the Columbia Basin reclamation project up in the state of Washington.

Present project law limits land ownership by a family to a single unit ranging in size from 10 acres to 160 acres. The proposed revision, which has already been approved by the senate, would limit individual ownership to 160 acres and family ownership to 320 acres.

WHY is that interesting? It is a sign that agriculture, along with industry, is changing. In the old days when a mule and a walking plow and a hoe were about all a farmer needed in the way of equipment, he could get along with a small amount of land.

In these modern days, when machines are everything, it takes a lot more land to support the investment in machinery that a farmer must have if he is to operate at all.

THE big political question:

Can taxes be cut? The answer is that taxes can't be cut (without going deeper into debt) unless SPENDING can be cut.

THAT raises another question: Can government spending be cut?

LISTEN:

LA house appropriations subcommittee dug up the fact the other day that Bandleader Dizzie Gillespie was paid \$2,100 a week during his "good will" tour of Africa and Asia last year. That made him (during the time he was employed) the highest paid employee in U. S. government service—higher even than President Eisenhower.

I think maybe we could learn to get along with the Africans and the Asians without spending that much for bands to entertain them.

ANOTHER one: We have 273,674 tax-paid civilian employees in foreign countries—including 26,000 in France, 98,000 in Germany and 129,000 in Japan.

I'm reasonably sure we might get along with a few less than that.

Party Chairman to Bring Court Action

Roseburg — (U.P.)—Attorney James Richmond, Douglas County Republican committee chairman, said Saturday he will bring action to force the ouster of the new Douglas county district attorney appointed by Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

Richmond said the local attorney, Avery Thompson, is a friend of his and that the legal action in no way cast reflection on Thompson's professional or personal qualifications.

He said that Gov. Holmes has violated the spirit and intent of the law "ethically and morally" by appointing a Democrat to take the place of the post vacated by Republican Robert Suits. Oregon law provides that a replacement must be made from the same political party, Richmond said.

In the case of Stults, Richmond said Gov. Holmes acted on the assumption that because the retiring district attorney was a write-in candidate with 170 Democrats supporting him, it was technically correct for the governor to appoint a Democratic replacement.

Richmond accused Governor Holmes of making a political payoff in the appointment of Thompson who had served as Douglas county manager for Holmes during his election.

The court action will take place when Thompson takes the oath of office, Richmond said.

Bill to Tax Lines Defeated in House

Salem—(U.P.)—A bill to tax the electric transmission lines of municipal electric systems outside cities was defeated by the House Friday after more than an hour of debate.

Rep. Richard Eyman, Mohawk Democrat, said the bill would correct a tax inequality particularly in the case of the Eugene Water and Electric Board. Also affected would be systems operated by Forest Grove, McMinnville, Springfield, and Milton-Freewater.

Rep. George Layman, Newberg Republican, said the bill was bad legislation because it arose from only one local situation and because it would open the door to one governmental agency taxing another.

Approximately 9 million dollars in property is owned by Eugene Water and Electric in the Springfield district which would obtain about \$135,000 if the bill passed, according to Rep. Keith Skelton, Eugene Democrat. Skelton said the utility was in competition with private power companies and that all such utilities should be taxed by the state.

Rep. V. Edwin Johnson, Eugene Republican, suggested the utility might make payments in lieu of taxes on its property outside the city, but Skelton said

there was doubt as to the legality of such payments without a statute on the subject.

Rep. William Grenfell Jr., Portland Democrat, said the bill might open the door to taking property of water, sewer and similar municipal systems.

U.S. to Continue To Bring Refugees

Washington—(U.P.)—The United States said Saturday it will continue to bring "limited numbers" of Hungarian refugees into this country in "the next few months."

Reports that the United States was ending its refugee program had created despondency among Hungarians waiting in Austria for a chance to find a new home here.

But a special policy statement issued Saturday said "the United States government is continuing to assist the people of Hungary who fled from Communist oppression, and under this policy will continue to bring limited numbers of refugees into the country within the next few months."

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Sunday, April 14, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Spitzbart Declines To Manage '57 Fair

Salem — (U.P.) — Leo Spitzbart said Saturday he would not manage the 1957 Oregon state fair because he didn't believe he could work with the new State Fair commission appointed by Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

John Travis of Hood River, chairman of the Fair commission said Spitzbart was called at his home at 10:30 p.m. Friday and invited to come down to the Marion hotel to discuss terms.

Spitzbart said he had offered to stay on as manager this year, provided he would remain as manager for one more year, at which time he would be eligible for retirement under the state retirement system.

Travis said several applications for the post had been received, and some of them will be considered at a meeting at the state fairgrounds here Tuesday.

Spitzbart's resignation, offered several days ago when the new Fair commission was appointed is effective Tuesday.

About 15,000 hotels in the U.S. provide meals for their guests and do \$767 million business per year.

Washington—(U.P.)—The Agriculture Department is standing on its year-end prediction that farm income in 1957 will be "probably about 5 per cent higher" than the \$11,800,000,000 farmers banked in 1956.

"WAR DANCE" Protest Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—A peace-loving student group at the University of Wisconsin will hold an Anti-Military Ball Saturday night in the wake of Friday night's annual military ball.



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