

Arab World Said Quietest Since Before Eventful Summer of 1958



WRECKAGE BURNS—Bystanders watch the burning wreckage of a Super Constellation which crashed in a rice field northeast of Colusa, Calif. A six-man test crew

Middle East Diplomats Hard Put To Explain

By DAVID DUGAS
UPI Correspondent

Beirut, Lebanon, (UPI)—Like the approach of spring, an atmosphere of seeming good will seems gradually to have moved in on the Middle East. In the winter, fires of re-creation burned brightly from Cairo, Amman and Baghdad. Now the fires are burning low.

The Arab world is at its quietest since before the eventful summer in 1958 when a pro-Nasser revolt rocked Lebanon, an army re-

volution toppled the monarchy in Iraq and Jordan's King Hussein summoned British paratroopers to prevent a pro-Nasser coup.

Middle East diplomatic circles have been hard put to find a clear reason for the change. The initiative has come from different quarters but President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic, as the leading Arab political figure, seems, as usual, to hold the key.

Nasser Seen Anxious
Observers here have suggested Nasser is anxious to patch up quarrels among his own neighbors to bolster his claim of leadership before the new countries of Africa and the neutrals of Asia.

Egyptian exploits in the Congo, in support of the late Patrice Lumumba, did Nasser more harm than good, some observers believe, and the UAR president is making a fresh start. But Cairo avidly backs the Soviet-supported regime of Lumumba's successor, Antoine Gizenga.

Some believe Nasser sees himself as a successor to India's Nehru as leader of the Afro-Asian neutrals. That seemed to be his role when he told the United Nations General Assembly in September that Eisenhower and Khrushchev should meet on disarmament "without delay."

Failing that, he is now organizing an Afro-Asian "summit conference" for this spring that is supposed to include the Soviet Union and a personal visit by Khrushchev. Nothing Accomplished
Other reasons for inter-Arab peace have been advanced:

— If the French-Algerian war does end soon, the Arabs would like to greet the event united.

— Nasser's concentrated radio campaign against Hussein appears to have accomplished nothing.

— The recent rapprochement between Iraq and Jordan could undermine Nasser's hold on Syria.

During his recent 17-day visit to the UAR's Syrian re-

gion Nasser did not utter a single criticism of any other Arab leader. Not even Hussein, although the Syrians unveiled three alleged Jordanian plots including one said to be aimed at blowing up Nasser's Damascus guest palace.

Nasser did attack a couple of anti-Nasser political parties in Lebanon for opposing his Egyptian-Syrian merger, but that was small pickings. Willing To Go Along
At the same time, if Nasser seems anxious to promote a new image of himself, other Arab leaders appear willing to go along with him, at least for now.

Iraq's Prime Minister Abdul Karim Qasbi, who accused Nasser of trying to kill him in October 1959, welcomed the UAR foreign minister at an Arab league foreign minister's meeting in Baghdad in January. Amicable relations continue.

King Hussein complained personally to the U.N. General Assembly last October that Nasser was behind the August time bomb assassination of Jordan's prime minister. Yet during Nasser's Syrian visit Hussein sent him a personal message offering to forget bygones and work for closer relations.

Palace sources in Amman let it be known that Nasser replied favorably. At any rate, a pledge made at the Baghdad conference to halt radio warfare between Jordan and the UAR has been observed by both sides.

Observers Skeptical
Even Tunisia, on the outs with Cairo since President Habib Bourguiba accused Nasser of abetting attempts on his life, agreed to return to the Arab league fold despite its earlier charge that Nasser dominates the organization.

How long will the political spring thaw last? Observers here are skeptical.

"Nothing much has really changed," one diplomat said. "Cairo and Baghdad can get along only when neither is a threat to the other. Jordan still considers the Egyptian-

Syrian union a threat. Hussein and Nasser are still divided on the settlement of the Palestine problem. And nothing has changed between the Arabs and the Israelis."

Plywood Prices In Major Increase

Portland — (UPI) — Plywood prices jumped \$6 a thousand in sheathing items and \$4 a thousand in sanded, according to major producers Wednesday. The price rise was a reflection of spring buying.

The new price is close to the 1960 high, but still short of the \$85 for sanded in 1959. The new plywood price lists called for \$68 for sanded, on the quarter-inch, AD price-index grade, and \$32, \$62, \$84, \$94, and \$124 for sheathing.

The new lists, put out by a major manufacturer, also included a \$5 increase in plywood quoted at \$150 on the 5-8ths and \$170 a thousand on the 3-4s.

officials and school bill sponsors are hoping that a showdown may again be avoided in 1961.

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Aid to Parochial Schools Is Knotty Issue for Kennedy

By Congressional Quarterly

Washington—President Kennedy's education program, presented to Congress in February, is running full blast into the emotion-ridden controversy over federal aid to parochial schools.

Participants on all sides of the issue base their arguments on what they believe the Constitution allows or forbids. While all agree that the 1st Amendment of the Constitution requires that somewhere a line must be drawn between Church and State, the precise application of this line to specific legislative proposals is still a matter of heated argument.

The President's program calls for grants to public elementary and secondary schools, but omits either grants or loans for parochial schools. The President has said "aid" to parochial schools is clearly unconstitutional.

However, Mr. Kennedy is requesting low-interest loans, for construction of classrooms, for both public and private, sectarian colleges. His proposed college scholarship program would make grants to both the student and his college, public or private.

Leading American Catholics say they will oppose the program if it does not include loans to parochial schools. While not asking for grants, the Catholic hierarchy says long-term, low-interest loans would be "strictly within the framework of the Constitution" and it would be discriminatory not to provide them.

Existing Legislation
Loans to parochial schools and sectarian colleges are available under several existing programs. Opponents of further aid to parochial elementary and secondary schools contend that the existing programs do not aid religion but serve some other purpose, such as rewarding war veterans, or promoting health and welfare. Against this, some supporters of the Catholic position contend there is ample precedent for loans to parochial schools, and the issue is more political than constitutional.

The major existing programs are as follows:
College Housing Program. Since 1950, the government has granted long-term, low-interest loans to public and private colleges for dormitory construction. See sectarian colleges — and most non-public colleges do have a sectarian bias — may receive the loans, but colleges whose main purpose is the teaching of religion, such as theological seminaries, may not. The administration's college classroom loan program would work the same way.

Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act. Under this program the government grants money to the states for hospital construction; the states then allocate the money to approved hospital projects. Hospitals built under the spon-

sorship of church groups are eligible; the only requirements is that any hospital benefited is non-profit. For 12 years, the Baptist church took no part in the program on the grounds that the Hill-Burton grants violated the church-state dividing line. The Baptists then in 1958 asked Congress to amend the act to give them loans (as opposed to grants) for hospital construction. Congress concurred.

The GI Bill. Money for the education of a veteran under the GI Bill was given to the school, and veterans were free to choose any school, including a religious seminary. (The only absolute prohibitions in the law were that they could not use the money to take courses in dancing or bartending.)

Under two programs, the government aids parochial elementary and secondary schools. They are:

National Defense Education Act. Title III of this act, passed by Congress in 1958, authorized loans to private elementary and secondary schools for the purchase of equipment to improve the teaching of science and mathematics. Public schools were given grants for this purpose.

National School Lunch Act. Under this program, the federal government grants money to the states for the purchase of food for non-profit school lunches in public and private schools. The program is administered by the Department of Agriculture through the states' departments of education. Because the constitutions of 28 states prohibit their state department of education from dealing with private schools, the Agriculture Department has set up regional offices to which the private schools in these states apply directly.

None of these programs has been challenged in the courts on the church-state issue and, with the exception of the Hill-Burton flurry, there has been almost no controversy about them on the religious issue.

What Supreme Court decisions there are on the issue of public funds for aid to religious schools were based on state laws. Although the Justices often went beyond the immediate case to offer general opinions about the intent of the 1st Amendment, their decisions offer no clear guidelines on how the court would rule on both existing and proposed federal programs.

An amendment for loans to private schools was rejected by a 37-49 roll-call vote. In the House, where the issue is considered explosive enough to kill a general education bill, a similar amendment was ruled out of order on the grounds that it was not germane to the bill, and a show-down vote was thus avoided.

In the interest of getting any elementary and secondary school aid through Congress and of avoiding great embarrassment to President Kennedy, a Catholic, administration

Lenten Message

By
The MOST REV.
JOHN J. SWINT, D.D.
Bishop of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Wheeling, W. Va.
(Written for UPI)

Lent is a special season of prayer and penance. Through prayer and self-denial in food, drink and other ways we try to make up in our small way for our sins and the sins of the rest of mankind.

Today we have great need for prayer and penance. The forces of evil rage over the face of the earth destroying life and liberty, making millions homeless, ignoring the rights and dignity of individuals, sowing discord, hatred, greed and envy.

One look at the state of affairs in South Africa, the Congo, Russia, China, Viet Nam, Formosa, Egypt, Cuba and here at home will give evidence of the extent of the power of evil threatening all men.

In these 40 days of Lent, then, we must pray and do penance for ourselves and our own offenses, but we must also pray for all poor, afflicted and oppressed people in our own hemisphere and in the rest of the world.

Wall Street Journal Names Editorial Head

New York—(UPI)—William K. Kerby has been named as executive vice president and editorial director of the Wall Street Journal.

Bernard Kilgore, president of Dow-Jones & Company, Inc., also announced that Buren H. McCormack was appointed vice president and general manager and Vermont C. Royster was named a member of the company's executive committee.

Washington — The department of State in Washington was first known as the department of foreign affairs.

Railroad Industry Calls on Kennedy For 'Fair Play'

Washington — (UPI) — The Association of American Railroads has called on the Kennedy administration to adopt a policy of "fair play" for the railroad industry.

The AAR said only sweeping new legislation, wiping out what it called inequities in the present law, could save the nation's railroads from a major financial crisis.

The association represents all the major rail lines. Its statement entitled "Magna Carta for Transportation," was approved recently by the AAR board of directors.

Dangerous Gap
"Unequal government transport policies have opened up a transport gap that can prove as dangerous to America as the alleged missile gap," AAR President Daniel P. Loomis said in a separate statement.

The AAR called for an end to what it termed "over-regulation, subsidization of competition and inequitable tax policies which discriminate against railroads."

It also asked that laws be changed to permit railroads to offer diversified transportation service.

"Railroads seek no favors or special privileges," the association said. "They seek only equality of treatment for all forms of transportation — the traditional American concept of fair play."

Advanced in Past
All the proposals contained in the statement have been advanced by the industry in the past. But the AAR said it was making a renewed bid for policy changes now because of its continuing economic difficulties.

"While all general carriers are in trouble," Loomis said, "railroads are among the worst off."

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