

Hussein Viewed As Necessary Figure in Middle East

By ELIAV SIMON
JERUSALEM (UPI)—In the Israeli view, the key to stability in the Middle East is the welfare of the 28-year-old king of Jordan, Hussein.

The Israelis believe a change of leadership in next door neighbor Jordan would pose a graver danger to Israel than the ever-present threat of invasion by forces of Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic.

So long as Hussein reigns, no critical changes in the non-warlike policies of Jordan are expected by observers here.

Most foreign diplomats believe an armed conflict between Israel and Jordan would inevitably embroil the whole Middle East, at least, and at worst spread far beyond the Mediterranean shores should foreign powers intervene.

Jordan's 40,000-man army, its "Lawrence of Arabia" type be-
douns and most of its Arab population are firmly behind the boyish King Hussein, whose wife is British.

But behind the scenes, the

struggle for power in the Arab world between the Baathists of Syria and Iraq on one side and Nasser's Egypt on the other spills over into Jordan, as it does in Lebanon and to a lesser degree in Saudi Arabia.

Should something happen to Hussein—and it is said he walks always in fear of assassination—either the Syrian-Iraqi Baathists or the Nasserites could be expected to attempt to take over Jordan. Foreign troops from the victorious side almost certainly would enter Jordanian territory.

Israel always considered such an eventuality as a serious threat to her security. It has declared its intention to "retain freedom of action" if a takeover attempt is made in Jordan. This is interpreted by most observers to mean "freedom of military action."

Influenced By Soviets
Nasser is bent on destroying the Iraqi-Syrian allegiance, it is believed here. Both Nasser and the Baathist states are attempting to maintain nationalist Socialist regimes. But, it is be-

lieved, that Nasser feels if the Baathists won't join him, he must destroy them to assure his own political survival.

Watching it all is the Kremlin.

Safe Driving Urged During The Holidays

Longer hours of darkness, more pedestrian activity, signs sometimes covered by snow, slippery streets and the excitement of shopping can lead to traffic accidents that may take the cheer out of your holiday.

December is filled with pre-Christmas activities that include shopping trips, drives to friends' homes, visiting relatives in other cities and many last-minute errands.

It is the most dangerous month for motor-vehicle deaths and every year avoidable accidents spoil many holiday celebrations.

With longer hours of darkness and heavier traffic the danger to both drivers and pedestrians is greatly increased. Whenever possible, night driving should be avoided and shopping excursions and trips to other cities should take place during the safer daylight hours.

In many parts of the country, bad weather makes streets and highways extremely hazardous during the holiday season. Motorists should try to stay on main highways and turnpikes and avoid back roads that are not equipped with modern warning devices, such as reflective road signs, adequate lighting and highway markings.

Many people driving to other parts of the country, to be with families and friends, encounter weather conditions to which they are unaccustomed. It is always a good idea to check the weather and make sure your automobile is equipped for bad weather driving.

Whether you're driving in town or on the highway, check to see that your vision is not obstructed by a large pile of gifts or luggage that should be in the trunk. These items on the back seat or on the package shelf by the rear window can easily fly forward during a sudden stop, causing serious injury to passengers.

Most important: always allow yourself enough time to get where you're going. Hurrying from one place to another only adds to the hazards of holiday driving.

Both the Baathists and Nasserites are strongly influenced by Soviet ideology. Their collectivization and nationalization schemes are borrowed from the Soviets. Militarily both the Baathist states, especially Syria, and Egypt are dependent on the U.S.S.R. for arms.

Arab politics is his recourse to military intervention. Despite setbacks and expense, he maintains an estimated 26,000 men in Yemen and has been sending troops and equipment to Algeria.

Informed Israelis believe Nasser at this time wants to keep the Israeli border quiet. First, so he can tell the world he is

interested in peace and, secondly, because he wants no showdown until he can be sure of victory.

In Israel no one takes Nasser lightly. But it is the "prize" of Jordan in the Baathist-Nasserite struggle that looms as the most immediate danger if anything happens to young King Hussein.

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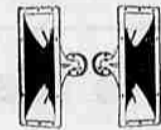
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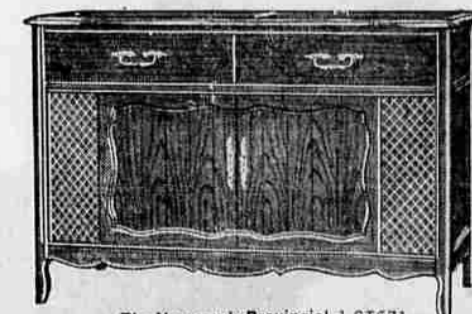
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