

Odds Favor Arms Sale Rejection

WASHINGTON (U) — The odds of U. S. law and foreign policy are strongly against approval of the quick cut-price, easy-term sale of weapons which Israel is asking.

How much armament she may be permitted to buy under cash terms required by law has not yet been decided. That matter is under study by officials of the Treasury, State and Defense departments. Officials said they expected no precipitate decision.

Secretary of Defense Wilson told his news conference yesterday his department will "carry out promptly" whatever decision is reached by President Eisenhower and the State Department. He said he had not yet seen the list of requested arms, which Israeli Ambassador Abba Eban presented to the State Department yesterday.

The total cost, kinds and amounts of arms asked by Israel was a closely held secret. But the total was known to run into the tens of millions of dollars and to cover antitank, antiaircraft and submarine killing equipment.

Eban would say only that his furnished list was in "markedly lesser quantity" than Egypt's reported 80 million dollar deal with Communist Czechoslovakia for 100 to 200 MIG15 jet planes, a like number of heavy tanks and six submarines along with assorted artillery and ammunition.

No sooner had Israel submitted her list yesterday than Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Hussein arrived at the State Department to protest.

"This country has gone no farther than to promise 'sympathetic consideration' of any arms request Israel might make."

Israel is eligible to receive U.S. military equipment under the 1949 Mutual Defense Assistance Act. But the specified terms, to which Israel agreed in 1952, are cash on the barrelhead. Since 1952, about a million dollars in military goods, principally radios and other signal equipment, have been sold by the United States to Israel.

She is not now eligible for free arms under this country's foreign aid program.

Eban's appeal emphasized Israel would like a deal which would provide weapons at "a most lenient consideration of credit and price."

Egypt Turns Up Nose To UN Plan

JERUSALEM (U) — Sources close to the Israeli government said today Egypt has rejected U. N. proposals for easing tension around the El Ajla demilitarized zone.

Israel has not yet given a formal reply to the proposals made early this month by U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld but a spokesman last week said the Israeli government would support them.

Tension in the demilitarized zone along the Negev-Sinai desert border area flared two weeks ago into the bloodiest fighting since the end of the Palestine War.

Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, U.N. chief truce supervisor, returned from Cairo early this week but made no announcement on the outcome of his talks with Egyptian leaders.

Details of the U. N. proposals have never been announced.

The diplomatic correspondent of the English-language Jerusalem Post, whose articles often closely reflect the government view, said today the U. N. plan included:

1. Completion of the marking of the Sinai-Negev frontier.
2. Further withdrawal of military forces of both sides, in effect broadening the buffer zone.
3. A general return to the ceasefire and zone conditions of the 1949 armistice.

That agreement provided a wholly demilitarized triangle 14 miles long and four miles deep on the Israeli side of Palestine's old international frontier and a "defense zone" of limited size and guard posts on the Egyptian zone.

Previous reports have said the Israelis were willing to withdraw their troops from the zone, but insist on keeping police in the area where many Israelis have settled.

Egypt was said to have objected to any plan for keeping Israeli police in the zone, charging they were troops in disguise and a major factor in recent border outbreaks.

Weyerhaeuser To Vote Split

TACOMA (U) — Stockholders of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. will vote Dec. 22 whether to split each of the company's 6,250,000 common stock into four shares.

The plan was announced Wednesday by J. P. Weyerhaeuser Jr., Tacoma, president of the company. The stock has a par value of \$25 and the new shares would have a par value of \$7.50 each. The stock is selling for approximately \$130 on the market.

Directors voted to pay a fourth quarter dividend of 63 cents a share and a year-end extra dividend of \$1.50.

Red China Announces Americans' Freedom

TOKYO (U) — Red China Thursday ordered the release of three imprisoned Americans, Peiping Radio said.

A Chinese language broadcast monitored in Tokyo gave no details of the time the Americans would be freed or where. Their names were not available.

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