PALESTINE LJ-Bureau-Mon. July 22, 1946

There were nearly a hundred casualties in Jerusalem today when A Land mines exploded in British Army headquarters at Jerusalem, with some fifty killed, and more than forty injured, many of whom may die.

The British Army had its headquarters in the King David Hotel in the Holy City, one of the better known hotels of the Near and Middle East. The explosion, or rather explosions, for there were two of them, caught several of the top ranking officials in Palestine. However, the acting High Commissioner and the British Commander-in-Chief in Palestine escaped.

The mines destroyed the whole west wing of the King David Hotel, and virtually wrecked the building next door, Jerusalem's famous Y.M.C.A. which was a land mark built since the First World War. It happened about half past twelve today, while the place was crowded. Scores of British soldiers, office workers and officials are still reported to be buried

under tons of wreckage. With rescue crews working frantically.

Immediately, the British authorities put all Jerusalem under strick curfew. Within half an hour every normal movement had come to an end in the streets, both in the old City within the Walls, and the new city outside - where the explosions occurred. At all important street corners they stationed armored cars, with riflemen on the rooftops and on the wells, at the Town of David, The Jaffa Gate, the Damascus Gate, along the Via Dolorosa, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and everywhere.

The men who touched off the mines evidently escaped. So far the British have arrested hundreds of suspects.

This is considered the most serious episode so far in the bloody history of modern Palestine. The probable consequence of which most likely will be more drastic action by the British.

ADD PALESTINE

The escape of Sir John Shaw, Acting High Commissioner, was almost miraculous. The explosion turned his headquarters into a shambles. And, he was in it at the time. But somehow, he escaped injury, although the debris blocked both the door and windows. The High Commissioner banged his way out with a sledge hammer, and then joined in helping the injured.

A friend of mine, one of the leading explorers of our time, was on the High Commissioner's Staff, Col. Bertram Thomas. I am wondering whether he was as lucky as his chief.

BOLIVIA

~~Our State Department has its fingers crossed~~ How about that revolution in Bolivia, in which President Villarroel lost his life! ~~Nobody in the Department would say a word about it except that it was a good thing no Americans in the country had come to any harm. There are only about two or three hundred of them there, most of them diplomatic personnel or construction workers.~~

~~Still and all, the unofficial news is that the revolutionaries will have a hard time maintaining a government in Bolivia that will be both peaceful and popular. They are composed of students, teachers and labor leaders.~~

At La Paz, ~~the Bolivian Capital,~~ the provisional government ~~naturally~~ has announced a complete triumph and restoration of popular liberties. ~~[illegible] admitted that several hundred [illegible] perished.~~ The provisional government consists of the Supreme Court of the La Paz District. All exiles, without exception, no matter what their political affiliations, will be allowed to return to the country and have a chance in

the organization of a new permanent government. So we hear. ~~The basis of it will be~~ with free democratic elections, freedom of the press, and the restoration of civil liberties. ~~The Provisional Government also claims to have innumerable messages from all corners of the Republic, pledging their support.~~

Hospitals and dispensaries, and even private homes, are crowded with casualties from ~~yesterday~~ yesterday's fighting. Unofficial estimates of dead and wounded run as high as two thousand. The broken body of the late President Villarroel today still hangs from a lamp-post opposite the Presidential Palace. After the rebels threw him out of ~~the~~ a third story window ~~to the street~~, hardly a bone was left unbroken in his body.

Most of the high officials of the Villarroel Regime appear to have escaped, ~~but they are~~ and are now in hiding, ~~in~~ the ~~Andes~~ high Andes. The labor leaders want to try for murder all those involved in the mass executions of November, Nineteen Forty-Four and June, Nineteen Forty-Six, when

Villarroel disposed of many of his foremost opponents. Some Villarroel men will be allowed to go into exile. Several of them are ~~killing~~ hiding in the Embassies and Legations of other Latin-American Republics, appealing to the traditional right of asylum which has prevailed throughout Latin-American revolutions.

INDIA

More trouble in India; ~~and~~ in the two largest cities. ~~The~~ Business and industry ~~of~~ in Bom~~b~~ay a today were virtually at a standstill. On account of strikes. A week ago, the post office workers walked out, demanding more money. Today the telegraph employees joined them and called a general strike. The trouble quickly spread to Calcutta, ~~so that practically~~ So now, no telegrams can be sent from or to the ~~largest city in~~ two great cities of India.

It may be only a matter of hours before a general strike will be called for ~~all the~~ the whole Province of Bombay, ~~and that will affect~~ a strike that will include a half a million workers. Schools were closed, and the men ~~of~~ of the navy dock yards were ~~talk~~ talking of walking out, also th~~ose~~ men in the railway shops.

CHINA

Reactionaries in both China and the United States are encouraging Civil War in China, in the hope that it will bring about a war between the United States and the Soviet Union. Who says so? ~~The authority for~~ Why ~~that statement is~~ none other than the illustrious Madame Sun Yat Sen, widow of the man who founded the Chinese Republic — and sister of Madame Chiang. All people devoted to the interests of China look upon Madame Sun Yat Sen with deep ~~with the utmost~~ respect, and say that she is devoting her life to carrying on the ideals of her husband, the first President of the Chinese Republic. Madame Sun, is one ~~as you may recall, is also one~~ of the celebrated Soong Sisters.

She made her ~~that~~ sensational statement in a letter addressed to the American people and sent to Secretary of State Byrnes, to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate and the House, to Labor Leaders and publishers throughout the United States. Apparently, she wrote her ~~this~~ letter to back up a plea to the American people to give no more help to the Central Government. Meaning ~~That means~~ the Government of

Chiang Kai-Shek, her brother-in-law. ~~of Madame Sun Yat Sen.~~ His government is permeated with the forces of reaction. So says Madame Sun Yat Sen. ~~and her friends.~~

Civil war, she says, though undeclared, has already begun. The reactionaries hope civil conflict in China will incite war between America and the U.S.S.R. and that one result of this will be the smashing of ~~would~~ the Chinese Communists.

Madame Sun goes on to say that the American people ought to know this is the road to disaster. They ought to know too that American reactionaries are ganging up with their counterparts in China, each encouraging the other.

The widow of the Father of the Chinese Republic also wants all of our ~~One thing she says will find considerable approval in America. She wants all United States Armed~~ Forces withdrawn from Chinese soil. She says their presence there does not strengthen peace and order among her people. ¶ She ~~also~~ urges us not to ~~that we~~ lend ~~any~~ more money to Chiang Kai-Shek. Loans, she declares, should be made only to a reorganized and truly representative government.

This is the first we've heard from Madame Sun for over a year. I saw her in Chungking a little over a year ago. At that time it was understood in China that she was in opposition to the Generalissimo's regime. She explains she has come out of her self-imposed retirement because she feels the situation so deeply, feels it is a calamity which ought to stop now. People, she says, hope in vain for results from the negotiations between the Central Government and the Communists, with General Marshall as mediator. That War flares out after every patched-up truce, and she adds that negotiations between the Kuomingtang and the Communists never will give the final answer, only the Chinese people can give that answer. The tutelage of the Kuomingtang is over, says Madame Sun.

~~The statement by the fifty-six prominent Chinese is of a similar tenor. It charges that Chiang Kai-Shek and the Kuomingtang have abandoned the three principles of Sun Yat Sen and are today favoring fascist activities.~~

ADD CHINA

As for the hostilities that are now going on, the Chiang Kai-Shek Armies are hurriedly building defenses in expectation of a Communist attack on Nanking. They are making pill boxes and bunkers along the Yangtse, near the railway station, and inside the city wall.

Two destroyers escorts and six mine sweepers have just arrived from the United States and are anchored in the Yangtse, ready to take their part in the expected battle on the river. American lend-lease airplanes are active in the skies, including numbers of Mitchell Medium Bombers B-25s laden with bombs.

The Communists admitted today that the Kuomingtang Armies have taken nine towns from them. But the Reds are reported to be now counter-attacking.

MAY

Representative Andrew May will appear before the Mead Committee and tell all about his relations with the Garssons and their big paper empire that made seventy-eight millions out of war contracts. May did not set any date for this, because, as he put it, "The stress of constant legislative duties would prevent his appearing tomorrow." It so happens that he is now engaged in trying to bring about an agreement between the House and the Senate over the law to control atomic energy. But the Congressman added that he will tell his side of the story soon.

He went on to say that there has never been any doubt about his eagerness to reply fully to all innuendoes, deductions and the like. That's the way he put it. In his previous negotiations with Senator Mead, Representative May demanded that he should be represented by Counsel, have the right to cross-examine, bring witnesses, and have certain documents produced. The Mead Committee replied that it was a Legislative Committee and not a court, therefore the cross-examination

of witnesses and other usual activites in a criminal trial would not be proper.

What May said today indicates that he is now willing to testify without any conditions.

Members of the Committee were interested in the photographs published over the weekend by several newspapers, photographs showing Generals, Colonels and Congressmen May at a lavish wedding reception given by Murray Garsson for his daughter, at a luxurious hotel. The Committee is also going to look into the income tax reports of some of the people involved in this investigation.

O.P.A.

Let's see what the new O.P.A. bill will do. In the first place, it will reestablish rent control by the Federal Government throughout the country. The agency itself is reinstated until June Thirtieth, Nineteen Forty-Seven. But its powers to interfere are considerably curbed and we are to have at least one month's respite. The real power will be with a de-control board of three members. This board to scrutinize ceilings imposed by O.P.A. and, if it finds them unjust or unworkable, to modify or remove them altogether.

The bill reinstates controls on meats, grains, milk and other dairy products, soy beans and cotton seed. But there is a string to that. If the de-control board finds there is an ample supply of these things, it is instructed to order the O.P.A. to ease up on ceilings.

There will still be some fight over the O.P.A. price control on meats. Senator Wherry of Nebraska has been against it from the first, and says he will continue to oppose it on the floor of the Senate, probably tomorrow. But majority leader Senator

Barkley is confident that both Houses will give their okay to the new bill that the Conference Committee worked out.

Even if the bill is passed and not vetoed, controls will not begin until August Twentieth. Manufacturers or others who feel they are aggrieved by O.P.A. ceilings, have the right to petition the de-control board for help.

Furthermore, the board will permit no ceilings on manufactured goods lower than the average approved in Nineteen Forty, plus the increased cost of production. There must be no ceilings on eggs, tobacco or poultry, unless there is a shortage in any of them; no ceiling on petroleum products unless the de-control board so decides.

President Truman says he doesn't care much for this new bill either. He wanted full O.P.A. control without any brake or curb on O.P.A. Officials. But if he vetoes this one, he will get none at all. It now seems to be up to his advisers. If they notify him that

the compromise bill can be worked, he will approve .

Senator Barkley says he is confident that the President will approve.

~~of Justice revived St.~~

The Sun Oil Company today, called attention ~~for its part, pointed out the~~ to the progress it has achieved by efficiency, by years of costly research, by improvement in techniques, which resulted in ~~has~~ improved products, ~~and resulted in~~ greater services to consumers, ~~plus~~ higher wages, and many ~~greater~~ employment benefits to employees. ~~For instance,~~

¶ In Nineteen Twenty, ~~at least~~ twenty-six years ago, the average price of gasoline throughout the country was twenty-nine point seventy-four cents a gallon. From Nineteen Thirty-Five to Nineteen Thirty-Nine, that price was reduced to thirteen point eighty-nine cents a gallon, ~~that is~~ exclusive of taxes. For a great ~~We have to remember that a considerable number of cents we pay for a gallon~~ of what we pay ~~of gasoline~~ goes to state and federal governments. In the first six months of this year, the average was fourteen point fifteen cents a gallon, exclusive of taxes.

One of the accusations made by the government is that the oil companies ~~fix~~ fixed excessive rates for the use of pipelines. Actually, all pipelines

in which the Sun Oil Company has a stock interest are common carriers, and ~~they~~ offer the same facilities and services to all shippers. Their tariffs, rules and regulations are subject to State Boards or Commissions, or to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

CYCLONE

~~The word~~ "cyclone" ~~is usually associated with the Western United States or the Pacific Ocean. But here comes news of one off the coast of Italy. It swept down without the slightest warning on the northern waters of~~ the Adriatic. ~~Sea.~~ The sky ~~was~~ clear; the water ~~perfectly~~ calm; people enjoying themselves, boating and swimming. ~~With deadly~~ Suddenly, a hundred and fifty miles an hour gale struck. ~~the coastal waters, whipping up huge waves. More than~~ Some thirty-three ~~people, enjoying themselves swimming or sailing,~~ were drowned, ~~and~~ twenty ~~are~~ missing.

The place that took the brunt of ~~the cyclone was~~ it — the classic seaside resort of Rimini, ~~once known as Ariminum,~~ where the children of the Caesars ~~and the families of Senators and the other fashionable folk of Rome~~ used to bathe. ~~there. It is one of the historic~~ spots on that most historic peninsula.

and now H — back to you

~~One boatload of people was in a four-ton sailing boat which capsized only four hundred yards~~