

JORDAN

47. - Deleted Thursday, April 25, 1957.

In Jordan, tonight, King Hussein <sup>has taken</sup> ~~is taking~~ personal control - under martial law. Armored units of the Arab Legion - patrolling all Jordanian towns. A rigid curfew imposed. Nobody allowed on the ~~streets~~ streets - without a special pass. The twenty-two year old monarch - putting his kingdom in a state of siege. Left Wing parties - banned. Pro-Communist leaders - reported arrested.

Last midnight, the moderate Premier, Hussein Khalidi - resigned from office, under threat of Left Wing violence. Hussein - immediately appointing a new Premier - Ibrahim Hashem, a Conservative and a firm friend of the West.

<sup>King</sup>  
Today, /Hussein made a radio address to the people of Jordan. In which he repeated his charge - that the disturbances are the doing of international Communism. His tone - determined. Giving notice - that he intends to crush Leftist opposition.

All of which - is in a consistent pattern. But - accompanied by some surprising features. King Hussein - known

to be pro-American, with a pro-Western policy. But, in his radio address he made statements - clearly based on local politics. Intended - to win over the Palestinian refugees, who are an embittered host in Jordan. Trying - to woo them away from Leftist influences. <sup>P</sup>Hussein said that his <sup>(policy is,</sup> ~~policy is,~~ in his words, "to strengthen the day of revenge, when we shall regain Palestine." He denounced former Premier Nabulsi, the Left Winger - ousted by Hussein. Declaring that he, the King, wanted to make war on Israel at the time of the Suez crisis, last November. But Nabulsi - prevented him from <sup>(doing)</sup> ~~doing~~ this.

In addition to these anti-Israeli statements, Hussein said - it was Nabulsi's idea to accept the Eisenhower Doctrine. Which seems - like an anti-American note in the King's speech.

One curiosity is this - there was music accompanying the radio address, with its attack on the Eisenhower Doctrine. Military music - and one of the pieces played was "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Well, it's all a bit confused - but that's nothing new in the Middle East. There are other reports, which state - that King Hussein has ordered all Syrian troops out of Jordan.

Left Wing Syria - having sent soldiers in at the time of the Suez flare-up. And we hear that Iraq has promised the support of military forces - to compel a withdrawal of the Syrians.

Today, the President of Syria flew suddenly to Cairo - for talks with Egyptian Premier Nasser. Talks - concerning the crisis in Jordan.

So that's the state of affairs, as of tonight - and there's no guessing what next will happen. A dispatch from Israel states - that all Americans, today - were evacuated from the Jordanian section of Jerusalem, / All Americans - the old walled city. - including diplomatic personnel. That sounds as tho' even Mrs. Bertha Vester had been taken from old Jerusalem. She has been there for some seventy-five years, thru wars and revolutions.

## MIDDLE EAST

U.S.

The/Sixth Fleet - is on its way to the Eastern Mediterranean. Headed by the giant aircraft carrier Forrestal, the powerful force of warships put out from French and Italian ports, today - under secret orders. The departure so hurried - that one-hundred-and-fifty American sailors were left stranded in Paris, where - they were on leave.

The assumption is that the sudden move of the Sixth Fleet is connected - with the increasing crisis in Jordan. Although - this is not said in Washington. Today, Press Officer Lincoln White of the State Department explained: "The movement of the Sixth Fleet," said he, "represents a return of the fleet - to where it has been customarily stationed in the last six months."

We may note - that the warships were in the eastern Mediterranean during the Suez crisis.

Moreover, there's increasing evidence of how concerned our government is about the way things are going in Jordan. Last night, President Eisenhower and Secretary of State

John Foster Dulles issued a joint declaration - that this country, in their words, "regards the independence and integrity of Jordan as vital." And, today, Spokesman Lincoln White added that Jordan is threatened by international Communism.

Under the Eisenhower Doctrine, the administration has Congressional authority - to go to the aid of Jordan. And the steaming of the Sixth Fleet, with its aircraft carriers, to the eastern Mediterranean - might be a preparation to help King Hussein. But it is emphasized in Washington that he has not asked for aid - and now we have <sup>the</sup> <sup>of</sup> news/how he attacked the Eisenhower Doctrine, - no doubt for local political reasons.

## EARTHQUAKES

The Middle East - hit by the violence of Nature,  
~~as well as by political troubles.~~ Earthquakes, today - over a  
vast area. From eastern Persia, the border of Afghanistan -  
to the Mediterranean island of Rhodes.

In the city of Ardistan, in central Iran, fifteen  
killed - when buildings collapsed. Further east, near ~~Afghanistan~~  
Afghanistan <sup>Floods caused by</sup> earthquakes, ~~caused floods.~~ Towns - isolated.

In Turkey, ten lives lost - when a town was virtually  
wiped out by the shocks. The quakes - hitting hardest in  
Asiatic provinces of Turkey. The observatory in Istanbul reports -  
twenty-six tremors in fourteen hours, following the first quake.

Two tremors - shaking Egypt. Cairo - feeling the  
shocks.

<sup>Greek</sup>  
On the island of Rhodes - eight killed, and heavy  
damage. Fifty buildings collapsing - in the old city of Rhodes.  
The minaret of a Turkish mosque - collapsing.

It's a <sup>long</sup> ~~long~~ <sup>way</sup> ~~distance~~ from Afghanistan to the  
Greek islands. But some disturbance of deep subterranean rocks  
occurred - all along the line.

## ADD EARTHQUAKES

There were earthquakes, today, in our own country - Southern California. Felt far and wide - without doing much damage. Three tremblers - shaking the Imperial Valley in the space of half an hour. Earthquakes, apparently, central in Mexico.

## BRITAIN - MISSILES

London gives us a glimpse into a futuristic world - of push button war, toward which the British are working - in a new policy of making their island a base for those ultra-modern weapons, ~~missiles~~ - rockets.

Today, the London Defense Ministry announced that a *network of* missile and radar *stations* ~~network~~ is being established at strategic places. The first - at North Coates, <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~-hundred-and-fifty miles north of London. A new Military Department being set up - to direct these futuristic developments. Separate from Army, Navy and Air Force - a special missile department. *P* The expectation is ~~is~~ that the new defense network will stop warplanes - such as might be used in an atomic bombing attack. And - not only that. They might even develop a defense against atomic missiles - like ~~the~~ intercontinental ballistic missile. Called - the "ultimate weapon". But a high British officer told a news conference today - there is no such thing as an "ultimate weapon". Or a defense against it may be found, - always has been in the past.

Britain - working on three types of defensive weapons.



One - called a "beam rider". A missile which follows a radar beam to the target. You pick out a hostile warplane by radar - and the missile rides the beam.

Another type has a built-in radar - which tracks down a target. Still another - is drawn to the target by the heat the target gives off.

This London dispatch may read a bit like science fiction - but it sketches ideas on which the British are proceeding, in turning <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ "tight little isle" into a missile base.

CENTRAL AMERICA

And now, permit me - to groan. Here's more warlike

**More battling in Bananaland.**  
trouble. Nicaragua, invading Honduras. The two Central

American countries have long had a border dispute - coming to  
a new crisis, recently. The United States urging - patience and  
a peaceable settlement. But, today, Nicaraguan soldiers marched  
into Honduras - to seize the territory in dispute. Honduran  
Air Force flyers, ordered - ready for action. Yes, permit me  
to groan.

## SPAIN

In the mountains of northern Spain, the country of the Basques - there's mourning and lamentation. Juan Fernandez - killed by the police. Juan Fernandez - Spain's number one bandit, for years. Fighting to the end in a mountain hide-out, near his native village of La Vega.

Spain, of old - was famous for its brigands. Remember Don Jose - in Carmen? He, too, was a Basque - one of those hardy mountain people.

Now later day Spanish  
/ Juan Fernandez - a sort of ~~Robin~~ Robinhood. Plundering the rich - and giving to the poor. For fifteen years, he and his gang made raids on towns - robbing wealthy homes. Holding affluent citizens - for ransom. A hero - in his own district, the country around the village of La Vega.

But the authorities finally caught up with him. Trapping him in his mountain lair. Juan Fernandez - dying with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ a submachine-gun in his hands. So there's mourning and lamentation - in La Vega.

## LABOR RACKETEERING

President Eisenhower calls for legislation - to crush labor racketeering. Which he describes as - an "abomination". In a message to Congress today, he said - the majority of Union officials are square and honest. But notes - that the Senate racketeering investigation has disclosed corruption and grave abuses. "Labor racketeering, like corruption anywhere," declares the President, "is an abomination, which must be eliminated."

The indications are that the President will ask Congress for legislation - requiring that the salaries of Union **officials** be made public. Also - the condition of Union treasuries and the administration of Union funds. He suggests that the administration be given the authority to examine Union funds, and make them public.

The President's message puts emphasis on the need of having Union welfare and pension plans - put on record with the government.

FOLLOW LABOR RACKETEERING

Tonight, AFL-CIO President George Meany - agrees with President Eisenhower. Saying - that he favors legislation for safeguarding welfare and pension funds. "We see no danger in public disclosure of Union financial reports", declares the President of the great labor organization.

## COMET

The new comet - spotted last night. Visible - in South Dakota.

The astronomers told us that the newly discovered Irand-Roland Comet would appear at the end of April. Visible in the Northern Hemisphere, as a bright star in the northwestern sky, shortly after sunset. Here in the east - blotted out by current cloudy weather. But, picked up in South Dakota, last night. There'll be a chance for us Easterners to see the heavenly wonder - in clear weather next week.

JOKE

At Salem, Virginia, Radio Station WBLU has been broadcasting an announcement - over and over again. Saying: "It was a joke, folks. It was all a joke."

The misplaced humor was the doing of Announcer Don McGraw - who told the local radio audience that, at the lake near the town, "strange bubbles" were emerging from the water. Don adding - that, presumably, the bubbles were from a submarine. Which seemed a pleasantly whimsical idea - a submarine in that Virginia lake. Don liked the joke so well - he repeated it on a later program.

Today, however, Station Manager M.C. Bowers explained mournfully: "The listeners didn't take it that way." They took the comedy for news - and ~~a local panic was on.~~ Station ~~WBLU~~ <sup>was</sup> WBLU/- swamped by telephone calls. As were - newspapers and police.

You may think it odd that people had become alarmed - by a submarine in the lake. But it was worse than that. One lady said - she heard a space ship had fallen into the lake.

And "strange monsters" were roving along its banks. Men from Mars - presumably.

So, Henry, Station WBLU has been reassuring the folks - saying over and over "it was a joke, folks. It was all a joke."



END

Announcer: And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

L.T.: I recall a letter I have here - from a radio friend at Goshen, Indiana. Who gives a bit of background on a story we had the other day, about high school boys - who raised money for a school-trip. Letting people hit an old automobile with a sledge hammer. ~~BE~~ <sup>- two bits -</sup> A quarter/for two smacks. Which got them into trouble with the school authorities - and, from the story, it was hard to see why. But this letter explains - there was an important point of discipline involved. The lads in question - defying the rules. Mixed up in it all - the rivalry of two newspapers, the "Goshen News" and the "South Bend Tribune." The kind of <sup>imbroglio, Henry, that</sup> ~~thing, that~~

**I'd better  
/keep out of.**

And So Long Until Tomorrow.