

MIDDLE EAST

Mon, June 5-67,

So many many thought it couldn't happen. But it did! As you know, the Middle East ~~is~~ aflame tonight. The long dreaded border collision at last a reality. With five Arab ~~nations~~ nations now united in a "Holy War" - against Israel. The Israelis now involved on three fronts, with Premier Eshkol saying - "our entire country has become ~~a battlefield~~ a battlefield."

Who started it? Israel and Egypt - both blaming each other. Who's winning? That's uncertain tonight in the light of conflicting battle reports.

However, this much is known - the surge of open warfare - quickly engulfing the holy city of Jerusalem. Jordanian troops ~~are~~ capturing a United Nations command post in the sp-called Jerusalem no-man's land between the two - old Jerusalem and new Jerusalem.

Israel is claiming important advances - in tank battles with Egyptian forces on the Gaza Strip. Egypt claiming the same - in the Sinai Desert.

Meanwhile, in the air, Israeli warplanes said to have bombed main Arab capitals. Also Sharm El Sheikh -- the Egyptian fortress guarding the Gulf of Akaba.

UNITED NATIONS FOLLOW REACTION

In line with the President's statement - U S

Ambassador Arthur Goldberg moved swiftly today at the United Nations. Trying to get a resolution through the Security Council - demanding a cease-fire here and now. A necessary prerequisite- to any U N intervention to quell the war.

However, Russia countering with a proposal of its own - to pull ~~be~~ back all warring forces to previous positions. India further complicating the issue - by demanding denunciation of Israel. This - for the deaths of three Indian soldiers; part of a U N peace-keeping mission- caught inadvertently in an Israeli air raid.

The council eventually calling a recess - to try to work out a compromise. But after hours of private talks - still no success.

KREMLIN FOLLOW U N

Late tonight - Moscow-time -- the Kremlin taking its first official note of the mid-east crisis. This in an article - in the government newspaper Izvestia.

The United States and Britain - guilty of inciting: "Israeli extremists" into attacking Egypt - said the Kremlin. Adding that -- "the extremists are losing their heads."

Another government statement shortly thereafter - accusing Israel of naked aggression in the Middle East. Russia saying it "reserves the right -- to take all the steps that may be necessitated by the situation."

REACTION

*Simultaneous with the flare-up of fighting -
a series of anti-American demonstrations today - clear
across the Arab world.,*

^ The worst - apparently at Benghazi in Libya.

*Where a raging mob damaged several American buildings -
forcing ten U S officials to take refuge in the American
Consulate. U S facilities in Damascus, Algiers, Tripoli,
Baghdad and Iraq - also under heavy fire from rocks and
missiles.*

*The U S State Department later banning American
travelers - from all countries in the trouble zone -
including Israel. The only travel exceptions - those whose
presence may be "in the national interest."*

*A State Department spokesman further ~~was~~
making it clear - the United States has been in ~~a~~ close
contact with Russia - on developing aspects of the conflict.*

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The spokesman adding: "Our ~~Our~~ position is neutral - in thought, word and deed."

Earlier, President Johnson urging on all nations of the world - to join in support of a quick end to the war - through the United Nations. Said the President: "We call upon all parties to support the Security Council -- in bringing about an immediate cease fire."

POPE

One of today's first air battles - over the village of Jenin - north of Jerusalem, where Pope Paul crossed from Jordan into Israel, during his visit to the Holy Land in Nineteen Sixty-five.

That visit perhaps uppermost in the Pontiff's mind - in a later plea to both sides, ^{and to} also U N Secretary General U Thant. The Pope -- speaking "~~in the~~" in the name of christianity, ^g urging that Jerusalem be declared an "open inviolable city - because of its peculiarly sacred and holy character."

At the same time, the Pope praying publicly - that the entire holy land will be spared an ~~an~~ all-out war. ^{We hear} ~~however~~ the Pontiff's message ^{was} received "coolly" by both Arabs and Israelis. The battle for control of Jerusalem -- as I mentioned earlier -- still the focal point of conflict between Jordan and Israel.

VIETNAM

War in Vietnam - marked today by a fourth straight day of fierce fighting - in ^{the} key northern provinces.

With rowing bands of Viet Cong - attempting to infiltrate a populous coastal region. ~~Frying to bring pressure to bear on a ss string of vital U S and allied bases.~~

So far - the enemy apparently getting nowhere.

Allied forces claiming a four-day bag - of nearly nine hundred Viet Cong. U S Marines accounting for some five hundred of the enemy toll- in a two-day running battle south of Da Nang.

In the air war - American pilots today downing their seventy-fifth MIG, ^{This} during a strike at industrial targets - north of ~~the~~ Hanoi.

FORMOSA

For the first time in years - news today of an armed clash between Communist and Nationalist troops - on mainland China. The story from official press reports - at Taipei in Formosa.

The way they ~~talk~~ tell it - Nationalist Chinese commandos were returning from a special mission across the Straits of Formosa, Having delivered weapons, ammunition and military advisors - to Nationalist guerrillas on Shantung peninsula. When the commandos suddenly encountered - a Communist Chinese army patrol.

With the element of surprise on their side - the Nationalist Chinese reportedly killing fifteen of the Red troops. Putting the rest to rout - and returning home with no casualties - said Formosa.

SOUTH HAMPTON

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor - aboard the liner United States when it docked today at Southampton England. The couple enroute to the first British royal family ceremony - to which the Duchess has ever been invited. An event raising ~~speculation~~ speculation that they might return eventually to live permanently in England.

Accordingly, a British reporter asking the Duke and Duchess - where they'd like to spend the rest of their lives. The Duke's reply - in a word: "together".

PEORIA

At Peoria, Illinois - a sentence today of death in the electric chair; for twenty-five year old Richard Speck - convicted killer of those eight Chicago nurses.

Judge Herbert Paschen - ordering capital punishment in line with the recommendation two months ago - of the jury that found Speck guilty as charged. Judge Paschen further setting execution - for September One.

However, ^{there will be} an automatic stay - pending appeal, with ~~the~~ case expected to ~~go~~ ^{go} all the way ^{up} to the Supreme Court - before a final resolution.

BLACKOUT

On the domestic front - the entire east coast -
on tenterhooks today, ~~Fearing~~ ^{feared} another big blackout -
like that of eighteen months ago. ^{This} ~~In~~ the wake of a massive
power failure - affecting most of New Jersey, a large
~~chunk~~ ^{area} of eastern Pennsylvania, plus parts of
Maryland and Delaware.

Luckily though - ^{all that section was} ~~the strictly stricken area~~ quickly
^{what they call} isolated from the eastern power grid." Save for a brief
dimming of lights in some places - the eastern seaboard
spared a ~~pr~~ repetition of that ^{memorable} ~~mass paralysis of~~ Nineteen
Sixty-five ^{episode,}

Even so - trouble a-plenty in dozens of cities.

Newark, Jersey City, Trenton and Camden in New Jersey -
Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Allentown in Pennsylvania - ^{to}

^{name} but a few of the places hardest hit by the power failure.

Once again - the question: "Why?" And once again

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the Federal Power Commission immediately starting an

investigation, trying to pinpoint the new trouble -- ^{hoping} ~~trying~~

to end once and for all these area-wide blackouts.

HONOLULU

Last up - a brief item today from Honolulu; telling of a rare and unexpected hazard - on the golf course at Hickam Air Base.

Air Force Colonel Marvin Becker - driving into the surf at the Oceanside fifteenth hole. About to try for a recovery -- when he spotted a ~~three-foot~~ hammerhead shark closing fast.

Time for retreat? Not on your life? Colonel Becker drawing a four-iron from his bag -- and dispatching the shark with one mighty blow. But it wasn't a big or the Colonel would have needed a lot more than a 4-iron. The Colonel later saying, ~~of his hit:~~ "It was my first accurate shot all day."