

L. J. - R + G. Monday, May 3, 1948.

At Lake Success today, the British proposed a stop-gap administration for Palestine. British Delegate Arthur Creech-Jones appealed to the U.N. Political Committee to shelve the proposals for partition and trusteeship. Instead, create what the Britisher called "a neutral authority", to insure a central administration when the British pull out on May Fifteenth.

Creech-Jones went on to say that ~~it~~'s too late now - too late to set up a trusteeship, and impossible to go back to the original United Nations plan for partition of the Holy Land. He added, something must be done.

Eleven days remain before the British leave the Holy Land. And the London Colonial Office says the evacuation will be carried out. They do not intend to change their minds!

The British proposal at Lake Success was made just after the International Red Cross offered to step in and try to arrange a truce in Jerusalem. The International Red Cross proposing to take over the Holy City, in the emergency. To be

responsible for food, water and operation of hospitals.

But only if the Arabs and Jews agree to stop fighting.

At the time the Red Cross proposition was first put before the U.N., there was no word from either side as to whether they would agree to the Holy City being handed over even to the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, news from Palestine of British pouring in reinforcements - by sea and by air - two ~~thusa~~ thousand troops landing in the last forty-eight hours. Coming from Malta, Italian North Africa, Cyprus, and Suez. The situation is now under control, say the British. They have enough men to enforce peace in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

Immediately, the Tommies arrived in Jerusalem, the twelve members of the Arab High Committee headed for neighboring Arab states, leaving behind only a few minor officials to talk with the British.

~~Jerusalem quiet today, only an occasional shot heard;~~
~~and minor incidents~~

NIGHT SHOW
May 3, 1948.

PALESTINE INSERT - 2A

This afternoon in Jerusalem, American, French and Belgium Consuls announced they are leaving for Amman, in Transjordania tomorrow morning to confer with King Abdullah. A consular commission seeking the Arab monarch's views on a truce for the Holy City.

The news wire tonight reports that the Holy City has been quiet all day; only an occasional shot; and minor incidents, ^{— with} ~~as~~ British Marine Commandoes, and a tank regiment, ^{on hand} ~~ready to~~ to keep the peace.

The Jews are said to be angry at the British, for what they term "a new invasion" of their country. The British reply that the Irgun attack on Jaffa forced them to send in new ^otrops. Either this or allow the armies from the neighboring Arab states to undertake a full scale invasion.

The Arabs, on the other hand, apparently welcome the British action. A Cairo paper, "Al Ahram", publishing a story to the effect that Britain has come to an agreement with Abdullah of Trans-Jordania. The British to protect Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem, in return for which Abdullah will not invade the Holy Land until the British mandate ends, in eleven ~~more~~ days. The newspaper quotes Abdullah as saying:-, "Every victorious war ends in an armistice. If the Jews want peace, we want it, and we want to give the Jews their own administration anywhere in Palestine where they are in absolute majority."

The Cairo newspaper also quotes Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, as saying that he too will fight for Palestine until

it is established as an Arab state.

All of which leads some to believe that the Arab nations are holding off until the British evacuate; then launch an invasion. Which lends urgency to the suggestion made at Lake Success today, that a neutral authority be given the task of keeping the peace. The problem being, where to find anyone to take over such a thankless, dangerous task. ~~It is~~

Eleven days more!

POPE

In Rome today, the Pope asked Catholics the world over to pray for peace in Palestine -- peace in Bethlehem where the Prince of peace was born. And peace in Jerusalem and Nazareth where he dwelled or sojourned.

"If there is one region in the world which should be dear to all," said the Pope in a special encyclical, "it should be Palestine, from where the Light of Truth came to all humanity." He goes on to urge everyone, everywhere, to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

(General Ike is now officially a "military elder statesman." Today he became President Eisenhower, President of Columbia University.)

All this came up today when Chairman Andrews of the House Armed Services Committee challenged the General's right to have Army people now working with him. The Congressman also wanted to know about that matter of fifteen thousand dollars a year retirement pay a Five-Star-General gets from Uncle Sam.

What's it all about? Well, the Army has assigned Military Elder Statesman Eisenhower three of its personnel, a major as an aide, a Wac warrant officer as a secretary, and a master sergeant as a chauffeur. All to help the General in private life, and no time limit placed on their services.

Congressman Walter Andrews, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee objects! General Pershing, says he, is the only living soldier entitled to be served by military personnel, in retirement. For General Pershing's aides were authorized by Congressional action.....

Furthermore, insists Andrews, Pershing is the only man to hold the rank of General-of-the-Armies. General Eisenhower being only a Five-Star General.

To which the Army replies that General Eisenhower needs some help in order to continue to serve the nation as a "military elder statesman." For instance, the mail of a retired General is heavy, bags of letters every day, both official and semi-official in nature. Then, too, the General has to be on tap, at all times, to advise Uncle Sam's Army on any problem. So, how can General Eisenhower direct a great University and answer War Department queries at the same time -- without some help? Who even to put stamps on all the letters he has to write in answering his heavy mail? Chairman Andrews, apparently, wants the General to do it all himself -- or hire a good secretary and pay her salary out of his own pocket.

Looking further into this, we find that in Nineteen Forty-five, President Truman sent a letter to

the Army to the effect that Elder Military Statesmen would need office help in private life. All Five-Star Generals to be asked how many they wanted. That was the presidential edict.

So General Eisenhower suggested a modest staff of three, a military expert, a secretary and a chauffeur.

Illegal! charges Chairman Andrews. Elder Military Statesmen should get along on their retirement pay! Well, it sounds like an exceedingly small tempest in a small teapot.

PRESIDENTIAL (to follow Eisenhower).

In New York this evening, newsmen asked General Eisenhower if he had any ambition to be president. Had he changed his mind since he wrote that letter last January saying he had no desire at all for the presidency?

General Ike, wearing a new civilian suit and a broad grin, shook his head. "I slaved over that letter", he said. "I wanted to make it accurately reflect my opinion -- and that still goes".

Someone asked him whether he would allow himself to be drafted if President Truman withdrew in his favor. "No", said the General, "I cannot see that the act of any individual will change my convictions". When the newsmen suggested there might be a mass movement to draft him for the presidency, *the new head of Columbia replied* ~~he~~ said, somewhat sharply, "You can drive this thing to the realms of fantasy if you want to keep on this way, but I have already stated my position".

On the chances of our being near ^{another} ~~the~~ war, our

PRESIDENTIAL (to follow Eisenhower) - 2

"Elder Military Statesman" said he didn't think that any country -- ~~and that goes for~~ ^{including} Russia, ~~too,~~ wants war, but

^{that} some stupid act might cause a conflict. And he added with solemn emphasis, "If any American boy steps on a battlefield again, I shall feel defeated".

E.R.P.

President Truman today nominated Howard Bruce, a Baltimore banker to be Deputy Director of the European Recovery Program. A Seventeen-thousand, five-hundred-dollar-a-year job.

On hearing of his nomination, the Baltimorean said he would resign as Director of United States Lines. Also drop out of all corporations with which he's connected. Give all his time, sixteen hours a day, to European recovery.

SUBMARINE.

The Navy has been holding ~~some~~ secret war manoeuvres off Vallejo, California, with secret submarines. Three of our fastest undersea craft launching rockets and V-two bombs from their decks. Against battleships and shore emplacements.

No word ^{so far} from the Navy on the results of the bombardment of the rockets launched from submarines; ~~rarely~~ ^{except} the words "highly effective."

And what else did the Navy learn from these ~~submarine~~ tests? - Three fast submarines against a twenty-five ship fleet ^{made up of} cruisers, carriers, and destroyers? The submarines ran rings around the surface craft. So much progress made by our subs, says a navy spokesman, that the advantage of attack is now "all with the underwater craft". Which means we have to think up new and better anti-sub ^{marine} devices.

SOVIET LOAN

The rulers in the Kremlin are asking the people of Russia for four billion dollars. To speed reconstruction. Part of a postwar five-year-plan; and the third loan since the war. So announced in a Soviet publication with an appropriate title: "The Agitator's Notebook."

Red workers to give up three or four weeks' pay to put over this loan. Everybody to subscribe. "Not a single oiler must stand aside from this important business," is the way the editor of "The Agitator's Notebook" puts it.

No foreigners allowed to contribute. ~~ix~~ Only Russian money accepted.

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Pravda today told Russian farmers their spring planting is lagging, in southeastern Russia and in Siberia; urging them to speed up.

Over here, farmers are free to blame a late spring for not getting their plowing done; but Moscow won't accept any such excuses. No delays permitted, anywhere, says the Red paper.

If some areas of the Soviet are already plowed and seeded, no reason why others should be waiting for the frost to let up. Don't wait for the spring, Comrade! Get busy, with that plow, Ivan! If you haven't got gasoline for your tractor, use horses. If you haven't got horses, use your womenfolk. That's the old ~~and~~ way -- let the women pull the plow!

Do you approve of having the women do the heavy work, Nelson.

TORNADO

A tornado struck northeastern Texas this afternoon. Ripping a twelve-mile path. At the town of McKinney it toppled a grade school and a textile mill and then headed for the city hospital -- which it cleared miraculously. The only damage a few broken windows.

Damage in the town itself estimated at two million dollars. Telephone lines down, no light, no power.

In Washington tonight the Red Cross reports as many as twenty persons killed, three hundred injured. Special radio units from Dallas have been sent to the stricken town to assist in the rescue work. Army field kitchens are feeding the homeless.

The news tonight is that McKinney is a city of desolation. The downtown section a shambles; with littered streets hampering the movement of rescue workers. No full details regarding damage or casualties yet. The Red Cross answered a call for blood plasma by flying it in from Fort Worth, and rushing national

disaster workers from all parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

From McKinney the twister roared on to Princeton, twelve miles to the east where it flattened half the town. No casualties reported there so far.

Late word from McKinney: most of the dead and injured were in a grade school, where classes were in progress when the storm struck -- with no time for anyone to get out.

RAILROADS.

About The prospect of a rail strike, ~~is gloomy tonight.~~
Government Mediator Frank Douglass has been at work all day, but he says "both sides are as far apart as ever, the mediation getting nowhere. We have proposed everything in the book late this evening, but neither side has deviated from the position they held when they came here." He added that he will make one final effort tomorrow -- putting in a full day on the job. If there is no compromise after that final effort, the government mediator says he will have to give up.

So, a nationwide strike of one-hundred-and-fifty thousand railroad men on May eleventh looms as a real possibility tonight -- unless the White House steps in.

Eight days remain. Only eight.

Let's take time out from the news for a minute, and go back to an old story - a funny one of some years ago.

I'm broadcasting tonight before a banquet of the American Transit Association, at Hotel New Yorker. At the tables are representatives of companies that operate subways, elevated railways, trolley cars and buses, both in the United States and Canada. The theme tonight is - safety.

I'm here, because this news program has often featured news items to illustrate the menace of accidents. Also - I've just been working on a film made by the National Transit Association. It's a motion picture about safety on the highways, called - "Driven to Kill."

Today, I looked back through stories we've had on this program, hunting for an anecdote about reckless driving to relate to these assembled safety experts. You gentlemen here are engaged in a crusade for careful driving. So here's an item of news we had on this program some while ago. Let me relate it as - the horrible example.

At Kalamazoo, Michigan, a freight train was running along at a fast clip. The engineer looking out of his cab window could hardly believe his eyes. Down the track he saw an automobile - no, not crossing with dangerous rashness. The auto was standing right on the track. That, you'll admit, was no place to park your car.

The engineer jammed on the airbrakes. There was a screeching and a lurching as the ponderous freight train stopped as quickly as it could - just in time, its cow catcher only a few feet from the parked auto. The engineer jumped out of his cab, dashed to the car and yanked open the door.

The man inside woke up. "Thanks," he said sleepily, "I was just having a nap." Whereupon he yawned, started his car and drove off, leaving the astonished locomotive engineer standing there and muttering - "What a cock-eyed place to take a nap!"

That was an extreme example of the sort of thing against which you, gentlemen, are contending. But now, let's

have a word from Guy Hecker, executive head of the American Transit Association.

GUY HECKER: I want to thank Lowell Thomas for the help he has given so often to safety campaigns throughout the nation. And I want to give him a special American Transit safety award medallion, bearing the following inscription:
~~Presented to~~ "Presented to Lowell Thomas who, by acting as narrator in the film 'Driven to Kill', has made a real contribution to the cause of street and highway safety."
Here's the medallion, Lowell - and congratulations.

L.T.! Thanks - to you Guy Hecker and to the American Transit Association. And now let's go on to an elephant -- although presumably you gentlemen of the American Transit Association do not use elephants in your business. Still, this ~~next~~ next item of news has to do with life-saving.

Today at McKeesport, Pennsylvania, a nine-year-old

boy was about to be crushed to death by an elephant^{ant.} It happened at the circus, where the lad, Robert Yednak, was fascinated by the ponderous pachyderms - as what nine-year-old isn't? He ventured too near, and a long curving trunk reached out and encircled him. The elephant lifted the boy into the air, slammed him to the ground, and raised one ponderous foreleg - to crush him.

The hero of rescue today was an elephant-trainer, who let out a shout. In the nick of time he yelled a command - the order that's given to elephants when they are told to "freeze", hold the same position. The elephant about to crush the boy was well trained - and froze. The great animal stood with one uplifted foot, while the trainer dashed in and snatched the boy away.

The moral of which would seem to be that, in addition to the danger of reckless driving on the highway, there is also the peril of boys fooling around with circus elephants.