

ISRAELI

L.T. - Deleo. Thurs. Mar. 7 - 37.

The government of Israel, tonight, announced - the completion of the withdrawal ~~in~~ from the Gaza strip.

During the day, most of the Israeli soldiers had already ~~be~~ moved out. Their places taken by troops of the U N police force. The first ones in - a Swedish unit. The Israelis leaving a small party inside the strip, to make final arrangements with the U N command. Then those last few marched out and the occupation by Israel was ended. For the first time, a conquering Army turned over the possession of a captured area - to the control of a society of nations.

Today's transfer was accomplished quietly. The Israelis had imposed a rigid curfew on the Arabs in the Gaza Strip - to avoid any trouble. As the U N emergency troops entered, people violated the curfew. Streaming into the streets - with shouts in praise of Nasser the Egyptian Premier. But all went off smoothly. Which was the more striking - when you consider the inflammable character of the Gaza population. With its

tens of thousands of embittered Arab refugees from Palestine.

So, today, a page of history was turned. A smaller page - to be thumbed over tomorrow. When the Israelis evacuated the territory they hold along the seldom visited Gulf of Aquaba - as they have announced they will do.

All of which leaves the question - what comes next?

Meanwhile there are ominous rumblings - in Egypt. Where newspapers today declare the purpose of the U N occupation is to turn the territories back to Egypt. Which certainly conflicts with Israeli assumptions - that the Egyptians must never be let into the Gaza strip again.

The Egyptian newspapers claim - that Egypt, legally, can, at any time order the U N Emergency force to get out. Which leads us to recall - that the international police force is only a small body of soldiers. Egypt - well able to throw them out, if

worse should come to worse But, then, we also recall a statement made by Ben Gurion, Premier of Israeli. That, in an emergency - the Israelis could march back into the Gaza Strip. Add up all these factors - and you have something to think about.

As for the Aquaba sector, indications are that Premier Nasser may not be so belligerent. About the question - of Israeli navigation in the Gulf of Aquaba. One story pictures Nasser as willing - to let the question go before the international court of justice.

Today, at a White House conference, President Eisenhower repeated the American view - that the Gulf of Aquaba, with the Strait of Tiran, is an international waterway. The United States expecting - that our ships will have a legal right of passage. Which would apply likewise, to Israel - under the principle of an international waterway.

There is news, too, about that other water way - the Suez Canal.

Nasser today giving permission for final clearance.

Only two more sunken vessels remaining to be cleared.

So the Suez Canal should be open - by the end of
this month.

EISENHOWER DOCTRINE

Congress completed action on the Eisenhower doctrine, today. The House of Representatives - voting to accept the version prepared by the Senate. The roll call was vote -- three hundred fifty to sixty. Which put the final seal on the administration victory in Congress - for that Eisenhower program.

The President gets just about what he asked. Congressional support - for the use of U S troops, if necessary, to halt any Communist aggression in the Middle East. And authorization - to spend up to two hundred million dollars to bolster Middle Eastern economies and governments against Red subversion.

EISENHOWER-INFLATION

The administration^{is} reviewing the entire budget -- for possible economies. Which will help to keep down the cost of living. So stated^{by} President Eisenhower, today, -- as Congress makes a move to reduce the figure for the budget. Which comes to Seventy one billion eight hundred million dollars. The President said -- ~~the~~^a slash of government spending is ~~not~~ necessary to check inflation.

EISENHOWER

At his news conference, today, President Eisenhower asked reporters to speak louder than usual, and as distinctly as possible, explaining that he is having temporary difficulty with his hearing. Because of a head-cold - along with that Persistent cough of his. It was noticed - that his left ear was plugged with cotton - soaked with medicine. During the question answer period he asked frequently that questions be repeated in a louder voice. And coughed - from time to time. Although he told the newsmen he felt the cough was better.

A few days ago, he told Secretary Wilson that he thought - the cough had settled in ~~in~~ his lungs. However, the President has been x-rayed and his doctors find nothing wrong with his chest.

Today, in spite of ~~his~~ ailments, he was in good spirits. Laughing - easily and often.

There has been mention that the President might make a trip to Arizona where the dry climate might benefit his cough and cold, but today he told

the news conference - it would be ~~awk~~ awkward for him to leave Washington. Considering - the mid-eastern situation, and the absence of Secretary of State Dulles, who is attending a meeting of the southeast Asian powers. Also - the absence of Vice President Nixon, who is on a good will tour in Africa.

TRUMAN

Here's a new detail in the relations between President Eisenhower and former President Truman - who used to be such good pals. But - not any more. The story ~~is~~ comes from veteran United Press correspondent Merriman Smith who says: "People who should know swear this is true".

It concerns the invitation from the White House to the former President, asking him - to make a trip to Greece and Turkey. To participate in the celebrations of the Tenth Anniversary of the Truman doctrine, which was of so much help to those two countries.

There was a bit of up-palaver about the invitation. H.S.T. miffed, finally refusing. Which he did, in a telegram to Secretary of State Dulles.

So now the story is that - the Truman telegram was sent "collect".

Sounds frugal - to say the least. Sounds more like the late President Collidge - Cal Coolidge noted for his New England frugality. H.S.T. now to

be known for his independence, Missouri, frugality -
says Merriman Smith.

IRELAND

In the Irish election, the victory as predicted goes - to DeValera. The final count is not yet in, ~~xx~~ but it is clear - the seventy four year old veteran of Irish history will be the new Premier.

~~Today's dispatch from Dublin shows that, thus far, the DeValera party has captured a majority of the seats in the Irish Parliament. A majority - over all other parties. Sixty four - to fifty five. There are only twenty three seats ^{remaining} ~~remaining~~ in doubt. Which we hear from Dublin, makes the prospect virtually impossible - for Premier Costello to establish another coalition cabinet.~~

Word has been that, if DeValera won out, he would not hold office for long - since he is nearly blind. That he will hand over the post of Premier to a chief lieutenant. Anyway, DeValera will become Premier - in a time of economic and political crisis.

Ireland - having a plague of unemployment and emigration. Irishmen - forever leaving the old sod. Also political troubles because of the Irish Republican army. Extremists demanding the union of Ulster and the rest of Ireland. Trying to enforce their demands with violence.

Today, new raids by the Ira in Northern Ireland. Fifty assailants in a gun battle that lasted for an hour. Using rifles and sub machine guns - against a police station in Ulster.

The Army reports the strangest case of A W O L. Mysterious in fact. An officer absent without official leave, ever since December. Disappearing in Germany - now picked up in Japan.

In December Lieutenant Edward Mendell, a West Pointer, was injured in paratroop training. He was being taken to a U.S. Army hospital in Frankfurt - when he vanished. There of course followed wide spread inquiries - which now bring an answer.

In Italy, Lieutenant Mendall boarded a steamer bound for Japan. Where he arrived a week ago. Posing - as a civilian. Suspicions were aroused, and the alleged civilian, in Japan, turns out to be - the Army officer A W O L in Germany those months ago.

COLLISION

At last reports, there are nine missing - in a ship collision on the Delaware River. All day long, the scores of survivors were checked. The number of men missing - reduced. And now it is down - to ~~nineteen~~ *ten*.

The catastrophe - a terrifying and spectacular explosion at night - in what is called "the graveyard of ships". A dangerous area in the Delaware River.

Two vessels - the freighter Elna. And the Navy gasoline tender Mission Of San Francisco. Both ships - empty. The freighter having discharged a cargo of wood pulp at Philadelphia and Wilmington. While the Navy tender, had no gasoline aboard. But its hold was filled - with gasoline fumes. Which caused - the explosion.

The captain of the freighter says his vessel was navigating down stream. The Navy tanker -- approaching. The freighter - blowing its whistle, indicating that it would pass on the right. The

captain says - the tender then cut across his bow.

The freighter - ramming the tanker amidships.

Immediately, there was a tremendous explosion - as gasoline fumes in the hold of the Navy vessel blew up. The blast - heard as far away as Maryland. The tanker - a mass of flames. And the freighter caught fire, too - swept by the blaze.

Quick life-saving action. The twenty three man crew of the freighter - taking to life boats.

The nine missing are from the tanker - which carried a crew of forty five.

in a brief time, the flaming navy vessel sank, the freighter - on fire for hours. The blaze finally put out - by fire boats.

Another to add to the bad record of that stretch of the Delaware River "The graveyard of ships."

PLANES

A freak air ~~stax~~ disaster -- at Lake Charles Louisiana. Two ~~stx~~ Air Force B-47 bombers destroyed. On the ground.

The two planes were in a line of thirty bombers -- on the field, for a ~~stax~~ maintenance check up when suddenly one of the B-47's blew up. Setting fire to the bomber next to it. The others pulled out of danger in a hurry. Two men injured, and as for damage -- each bomber was valued at two-and-one-half million dollars.

LENT

As we all know, or should know, ^{that} this is Lent, the observance of which forty-day-period as a holy season, dates back to Four Hundred and Eighty Seven A.D. In which year, Pope Felix-the-Second formalized a custom that had been increasing among the early christians - Lent as solemn preparation for Easter.

Today - the same religious practice, with abstinence and fasting. Emphasized especially - by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and Lutherans.

In the past, other Christian denominations have paid less attention to Lent. But now - the observance of the penitential season is increasing among Methodists, Presbyterians and other Protestants, as explained by the Reverend J. R. Taylor, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Pilgrims in Washington.

"There was a time" says Dr. Taylor, "when most Protestants shied away from Lent as a Roman custom. But we've got beyond the point where we're

afraid of that. "Lent" he goes on "is an historical phenomenon, which goes back to the primitive church. We have learned from experience," he says, "that we need a period of preparation to appreciate the full meaning of Easter." So, let's all devote some of our thoughts to that during this period.

END

Announcer: And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

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L.T.: A year ago today, the Nixon question was boiling. President Eisenhower, as his news conference a year ago today was asked - did he want the Vice President back on the ticket for a second term? He replied with expressions of high regard for Dick Nixon - and would have nothing to do with the Stassen "dump Nixon" campaign. Eventually, the winning ticket was "Eisenhower and Nixon." And, the general conclusion after one year is that Nixon added some strength - did not detract from the ticket -- today Stassen reports to the State Department instead of direct to the President - probably a demotion for him --

And,

solong until tomorrow.