

ISRAEL

Monday, March 4, 57 News Column

The dilemma of Israel seems, finally - solved. This afternoon, at the United Nations, Mrs. Golda Meier, Foreign Minister of Israel -- stated that the Israelis were withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the Aquaba sector.

Actually, she reaffirmed the announcement she made last week. But not exactly -- in the form of a reaffirmation. Putting it -- more as a follow up. Stating -- that technical arrangements for the withdrawal had been made.

Which ignored the suspense over the weekend the ^lfeeding that Israel, after all, might not carry out the pledge given last week. There might be a hitch in that agreement. Whereby Israel would pull out. So, there was doubt and a new tension.

Which, however, was discounted by Israeli Ambassador Eban -- in a television broadcast. Yesterday on CBS - Face The Nation, Ambassador ~~XXX~~ Eban said: "I am a little at a loss to understand

the feeling of tension and crisis that exists".

The Ambassador taking the attitude that Israel had informed the General Assembly of the U N that Israel would withdraw. And that was that.

Hence the way in which Foreign Minister Mrs. Golda Meier spoke today. Announcing -- technical arrangements. .

The real drama over the weekend -- was in Jerusalem. Where Premier Ben Gurion faced what the news dispatch calls a "harrowing" crisis. Faced with the opposition -- of both political ^{ians} ~~ians~~ and people. Ben Gurion -- threatened with political downfall. The likelihood that the Knesset would vote against him on the withdrawal issue. Political parties denouncing what they call "surrender". Demanding that Ben Gurion stick by the vote in the Knesset last week -- that there must be guarantees that the Egyptians shall never occupy the Gaza Strip again. And -- that the Gulf of Aquaba be kept open to Israeli shipping. Which guarantees have not been

forthcoming. Israel's promise to withdraw -- called "unconditional".

Today's dispatch from Jerusalem, Israel, ^{states} ~~was~~ that Premier Ben Gurion was finally persuaded by a message from President Eisenhower on Sunday. Giving Israel ~~is~~ assurances. They say that the Premier was "extremely pleased" by the Eisenhower message. So he acted on his own.

Today he was to have held a cabinet meeting, but called it off. Not placing his decision before the Cabinet. Instead, he met parliamentary leaders individually -- telling ~~us~~ them of his intention. He was to have appeared before the Knesset, today, but ~~was~~ postponed that until tomorrow.

His action was quick and simple. Ordering the Chief of Staff of the Army of Israel to meet with Canadian General Burns. And -- arrange for a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Aquaba sector. Late reports are that the Chief of Staff, Major General Mosag Dahan conferred

with General Burns for an hour, arranging quickly -- for U N Emergency troops to take over, as the Israelis withdraw from the disputed area.

Ben Gurion's action was not announced, formally, in Israel today. But the ^(news)~~word~~ spread quickly, by word of mouth. And then immediately there were popular demonstrations. ^A~~The~~ march of students -- protesting. The march -- broken up by the police, after a scuffle.

The Premier, having made a decision on his own -- will now have to face the Knesset. Where he ^{is}~~has~~ promised -- a stormy time. He may be voted out by the Parliament. But the belief is that he will win support by ~~exciting~~ President Eisenhower's message of yesterday, as a reason for ~~his~~ confidence. He intends to present ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the Knesset -- tomorrow with an accomplished fact. The withdrawal - having already begun. Which he will describe as -- "an act of faith in the international community".

At the U N, today, the British delegate spoke

up in behalf of Israel's contention regarding the Gaza Strip. The expectation -- that this troubled area will remain under U N control. He argued, likewise, that the mouth of the Gulf of Aquaba must be regarded as an international waterway -- through which Israeli vessels would have the right of passage.

BUDGET

In Congress -- a drive to slash the budget. A concerted move -- to cut the figure of ~~Seventy one~~ billion eight hundred million, requested by the Administration.

A Republican economy move -- headed by Congressman Thomas Pelley of Washington, who -- wants to cut that Eisenhower budget by six or seven billion. Keeping it down to a maximum of Sixty Five Billions.

of other Congressman
Congressman Pelley -- collecting signatures for his petition. Urging the Rules Committee to give his proposal a quick ~~chance~~ chance to go to the House -- for debate. Today, the Congressman had twenty-six names, ^{and} says he hopes to double the number by tomorrow morning.

However, as a warning to tax payers don't expect big results from the economy drive. Sam Rayburn speaker of the House, putting it in these words: "The government is big, it is going to stay big". Taxes are high, they are going to stay high. You can talk all you want about cutting the budget by five

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billion, but that just isn't going to be done," says the Speaker.

Today Sam Rayburn celebrated the forty-fourth anniversary of his first day in Congress, Reminiscing -- with reporters. His recollections -- much to the point.

He said the biggest change he has seen in his forty-fourth year as a Congressman, can be summed up in one word -- money. Recalling that the first Congress which appropriated a budget of one billion dollars was denounced -- as disgraceful. But the budget has been rising steadily ^{— now} \times more than seventy one billions! ~~one~~

SEGREGATION

In Tallahassee, Florida^a city judge gave the maximum today -- to three college students. Convicted -- of violating the law that provides for racial segregation in busses.

Last year, Tallahassee had a bus boycott -- negroes refusing to ride in conditions of segregation which was followed by a city ordinance -- reaffirming segregation in busses.

Then, on January 19th -- three students boarded a bus. One -- white. The other two - colored. They took seats together -- in places reserved for whites. The bus driver ordered them to separate: they refused -- making an issue of it. Today, the Judge imposed the maximum penalty -- sixty days in jail and one thousand dollars fine for each.

SIAM

The exotic city of Bangkok looked a bit less warlike today -- after a weekend when it seemed as if a revolution might break out. Huge crowds in demonstrations of protest -- fifty thousand people shouting defiance. The government -- bringing in heavy forces of troops with tanks. The capital of Thailand ~~is~~ looking like an armed camp. The cause of the ~~gmp~~ protest -- elections. Last week, the Siamese voters went to the polls. The official count -- not yet announced. But according to all reports -- the government party is far ahead. ^{Amid} Charges of: "irregularities," the election called "the dirtiest in history".

So it looks like revolution in Bangkok, ^{has been} But actually there ~~was~~ no violence. The huge crowds ^{that} faced the massed military forces ~~was~~ contented ^{with} themselves with shouting. And the troops on guard - did no shooting.

Premier Songgram appeared before the mobs in person, arguing: "if you don't like the election,

take your complaints to the courts".

He must have been eloquent, because the trouble subsided. Bangkok -- still occupied by military forces, ^{with} ~~with~~ soldiers and ~~the~~ tanks ~~were~~ less in evidence, today.

NIXON

On the African Gold Coast Vice President Nixon said -- he was feeling much better today. After a triple ~~is~~ dose of an antibiotic and ten hours of sleep.

The Vice President, who is on a whirlwind African ~~is~~ tour, went to bed last night with a fever. His doctors say a light case of the flu.

But, he's carrying right on -- after the anti-biotic and the long sleep. Today -- conferring with the Prime Minister of the newly created republic of Ghana -- on the Gold Coast.

JAPAN

In Japan a weird sort of proposal -- a "kamikaze sit-down" demonstration. To prevent the British from holding hydrogen bomb tests at Christmas Island in the Far Pacific. Japan -- protesting. The Japanese -- afraid ~~am~~ of bomb explosions in their neighborhood. Christmas Island is a long way from Japan -- but atomic fall-out can travel far. The British say there is no danger. But the Japanese protest includes a drastic suggestion -- $\frac{2}{\lambda}$ "kamikaze sit-down" fleet.

In Tokyo, a committee demand that the Japanese government send out a fleet of ships to the Christmas Island area. And have them just ~~remain~~ remain there, "sit-down". Believing that the British would then refrain from touching off hydrogen bomb explosions.

If they went ahead with an atomic blast, well, it would be just too bad for the sit-down ships. They'd be "kamikaze" all right -- reminiscent of the suicide planes, which were a

melodramatic feature in World War Two. The Japanese kamikaze.

Today the new Tokyo Prime Minister, Kishi said -- no. Turning down the fantastic proposal he said: Japan will hold Britain responsible for any damage or injury. Explaining -- that the Tokyo government has informed London -- to that effect. No reply received -- so Japan assumes that the British tacitly accept responsibility.

COMET

A collision -- between this earth and a comet. Sounds frightening -- but it might happen a couple of months from now. That is, the tail of a comet may sideswipe this ~~at~~ globe of ours.

So predicted^s by Dr. Carl Seyfert; Director of the Vanderbilt Observatory at Nashville, Tennessee, who has been observing the Arend -- Roland comet -- and calculating its course. This new heavenly body -- first noted in January by two South African scientists Professors Arend and Roland. Now -- near enough to ~~the world~~^{us} for some careful astronomical figuring.

The comet will be visible to the naked eye from April Twenty Fifth to ~~Maxx~~ May Fifth. The best time to look for it -- about an hour after sunset when, in the northwest, the celestial visitor will shine almost as brightly as Sirius -- the brightest star in the Heavens. Not counting the planets, of course.

The tail of the comet will approach close to this earth -- and may sweep right into our

atmosphere. No catastrophe -- ~~making~~ nothing to be frightened about. The comet's tail -- consisting of nothing more than small particles -- dust and gasses. Which will produce a myriad of shooting stars. ~~is~~ Dr. Seyfert saying "we may be in for a ~~very~~ startling display of meteors -- better than any fireworks show."

The last time this planet of ours was hit by a comet's tail was in Nineteen Forty Six. Resulting in a superb display of meteors.

So, likely enough we will have the same sort of heavenly pyrotechnics ^{again} / -- late April or early May.

March 4, 1957

END

Announcer: And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

L.T.i A year ago today - John Bagot Glubb was at Number Ten Downing Street - conferring with Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. Glubb Pasha, just dismissed from the command of the famous Arab Legion. Which was a sign of coming events. Jordan breaking away from British control - Arab Nationalism rising, British influence declining in the Middle East.

And, solong until tomorrow.