

Report Egypt Charges Israeli Army Using Gas In Holy Land Fighting

Reprisal Hint Accompanies Accusation; Jews Issue Denial, See Attempt to 'Smear'

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (UP)—Egyptian sources have charged Israeli troops with using gas in the Negev fighting. It was reported today, and the Egyptian high command has threatened gas attacks against Jewish settlements in retaliation.

An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptian complaint was made to Brig. Gen. William Riley, chief United Nations observer in Palestine, by the Egyptian commander in the Negev.

This report said the Egyptian commander said the Jews used tear gas and choking gas against an Egyptian brigade, estimated at 2000 men, trapped in Faluja for several weeks.

The Jewish spokesman denied the Egyptian charges. He said they probably were prompted by Egyptian plans to use gas to extricate their troops from a desperate military situation. Or, he said, it was an attempt to carry on a smear campaign against the Jews.

A two-hour battle in which two Jews and "several" Iraqis were killed broke out last night on the central front northwest of Natanya, the Jewish spokesman said.

The battle was said to have started when the Jews took "punitive action" against what they described as cattle thieves operating in the area.

Reports from Cairo, meanwhile, said that the Egyptian government has called the United Nations Security Council that it will abide by the council's Dec. 29 order calling for a cease-fire in Palestine.

London

RUSSIA admitted today she still was holding a number of German war prisoners in violation of a four-power agreement but said that all would be released this year.

The Russian statement, carried by the official Tass agency and distributed here by the Soviet monitor, was made in answer to a joint American-British-French protest.

The Tass statement denied that there ever had been an ironclad agreement to release all German prisoners by the end of 1948.

The Russians said the agreement was to refer the matter to the Allied Control Council for Germany. There the agreement was killed by the British and French, the statement said.

Paris

A SPECIAL government commission investigated charges today that French officials squandered millions of dollars in government funds during 1946 and 1947 on wine, women and plush living.

With Communists and followers of Gen. Charles De Gaulle attempting to make political capital of the probe, it promised to be the biggest financial scandal in 10 years.

Shanghai

The United States gradually is withdrawing its Army and air advisers from China as the Nationalist government presses the Communists for peace.

Six U. S. Army transport planes were scheduled to take members of the military mission's air division from Shanghai to Tokyo today. The Army division also has ceased all its activities and functions, but a skeleton organization remains in Nanking.

Soon the U. S. Navy will be the only American armed force branch represented in China. It is still maintaining its operations in Tsingtao, base of the Western Pacific Fleet, and is increasing its activities and personnel in Shanghai.

The Navy's increased activity may be due to evacuation preparations.

In Nanking, Chinese government sources said they are still waiting for a Communist response to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's peace bid. The feeling was growing that the Reds will reject Chiang's offer.

Moscow

THE OFFICIAL Moscow newspaper Pravda said today that President Truman wasn't telling the truth when he accused Russia of failing to fulfill the Yalta and Potsdam agreements.

It was the first published reference in Russia to Mr. Truman's recent off-the-cuff speech at Kansas City, in which he said that the Soviet Union had not carried out international agreements, but added that "certain leaders" of Russia hoped for an understanding with the United States.

Frankfurt

MORE THAN 400 veterans of the Berlin airlift will be sent back to the United States this month, Air Forces headquarters announced today. The veterans made up 134 of the crews who have been flying food and fuel into Berlin. They have been replaced by flight teams newly arrived from the U. S.

Shanghai

THE PUBLIC Benevolence Society reported today that at least 4,211 persons have starved to death in the city's streets since Nov. 1. A total of 189 frozen bodies—all but seven of them children's—were found yesterday, making a total of 513 since Christmas.

Czechoslovakia

RETAIL PRICES on non-necessities will skyrocket throughout Czechoslovakia under the impetus of a new Soviet-style percentage tax to be paid by the consumer, it was predicted today. Czech officials announced that hundreds of items, from shoes to gasoline, would have new price tags hung on them, sending some prices up to five times the Christmas level.

Low prices will be maintained on food and basic goods purchased with ration coupons.

Those Dental Prospects Are Pleasant



Fourteen-year-old Shirley Elder, 723 N. Delaware St., receives a painless application of sodium fluoride to her teeth, intended to make her visits to a dentist less frequent. Dr. Paul R. Oldham (left) dabs on the solution, aided by Miss Lillian Elder. They are members of a fluoride demonstration team that visited School 2, Ft. Wayne Ave. and Delaware St., yesterday.

House Spokesman Sees 'Entirely New' Labor Law

Michigan Democrat Scotches Report Old Wagner Act to Be Restored

By FRED W. PERKINS, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Jan. 4—Organized labor today suffered its first rebuff in its fight to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and restore the old Wagner Act—perhaps with amendments.

"That method won't do," Rep. John Lesinski (D. Mich.) said. "There is no sense trying to amend the Wagner Act. In the House we will pass an entirely new labor law that will take cognizance of developments since the Wagner Act became law in 1935. It will contain a good bit of the Wagner Act and probably a few features of Taft-Hartley."

Until the House bill is passed, and the Senate acts, the Taft-Hartley law will stay on the books, according to Mr. Lesinski, who will be chairman of the House Labor Committee.

Though he is a businessman and employer in his Detroit area district, Mr. Lesinski has been a consistent supporter of organized labor during his 18 years in the House. He was backed by union forces in the November election. In the procedure of getting a new labor law, however, he departs from the ideas being pushed by both the AFL and CIO.

Waits Truman Message
The only thing that could change his mind, according to his statements, would be for President Truman to follow the union formula closely in his State of the Union message tomorrow. That is not thought likely because administration specialists also have been talking in terms of a "package" arrangement—that is, everything will be wrapped up in agreements on a new law before the Taft-Hartley act is repealed.

Mr. Lesinski said his committee would draft its idea of a new law before public hearings were held—"give the witnesses something to shoot at." The Taft-Hartley law was written in closed committee sessions after hearings that covered scores of phases of labor-management relations.

"I hope," he said, "for a law that will stand the test of time, and that will not be subject to widespread revision in future years. We must recognize the rights of employer and the public, as well as of labor."

Would Cover Fascists
He said the new law would contain an amplified version of the non-Communist requirements of Taft-Hartley, would cover employers as well as union officers, and Fascists and other totalitarian followers as well as Communists. He favors also a method of protecting the country from national-wide "emergency" strikes affecting the public interest, and also a prohibition of "wildcat" strikes due to unruly elements defying the policies of their union officers.

Mr. Lesinski declined to say whether he favored setting up "unfair labor practices" for unions as well as employers, in the Taft-Hartley manner.

"That is one subject on which I want to get the President's views," he said.

Screwball Crimes of '48—
Prunes Smack Yegg in Face

Tap on Shoulder Hits Jackpot; 3-Year Supply of Sermons Stolen
HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 4 (UP)—If crime didn't pay last year, it was because the boys were a little more butter-fingered than usual.

Out in Hamilton, Wash., a couple of eager beaver yeggmen tunneled for days to get into the vault of the State Bank only to find that it had been out of business for four years.

Poor planning, said statisticians of the Travelers Indemnity Co. of Hartford today as they thumbed through the screwball crimes of 1948.

The year produced some whizzers, such as:
The thief who tried to climb through the transom of a Los Angeles doctor's office, fell, cut himself and had to phone the doctor to patch him up. The bobbies took over from there.

Then there was the Brooklyn, N. Y., bandit who tried to hold up the proprietress of a store with a toy pistol. She smacked

him in the face with a bowl of prunes he was eating and, he fled into the street, and the arms of the law.

AT Moultrie, Ga., they like to tell the story about the policeman who hit the jack-pot. He tapped a suspect on the shoulder and he spewed out \$5 in nickels and dimes.

A Provincetown, Mass., policeman searched a portly suspicious character and found him wearing two suits of clothes with the pockets containing stolen sun glasses, vitamin pills, stage money, scissors, surgical throat lights and 212 other odds and ends.

On Connecticut's Merritt Parkway a state highway patrolman stopped a New York truck to warn the occupants the rear springs were sagging.

Administration Steamroller Blocks Rankin

Rebels Lose First Test In 81st Congress

By CHARLES T. LUCEY
WASHINGTON, Jan. 4—An angry little man named John Rankin stood screaming in the House of Representatives that he and his fellow southerners had a right to be heard—but the Truman administration steamroller ran right over him.

That's the story today on how things stand at the opening of the new Congress.

John Rankin was a sort of symbol. He has been shouting and flailing his arms in the House these many years and always it has been hard for the leadership to shut him up.

It did yesterday. And where for years the House rebels from the South led by Mr. Rankin, Gene Cox (D. Ga.) and Howard Smith (D. Va.) have been able to rally a hundred or so votes to balk Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman on the first test of this new Congress they couldn't rally a third of that. The test was on a change of House rules.

Back Together
The Southerners will be back together before this Congress is over, of course. They'll show strength when a civil rights issue comes along.

And there will be days when they muster a much larger group to join with the Republicans to block administration measures.

There were two salient factors in the initial performance of House Republicans. First, GOP House strategy is to hold maximum party fire for issues on which party leaders believe either that they can win or at least make a good case before the country.

Second, the favorable vote on the move curbing the power of the Rules Committee demonstrated that there is a sizable GOP group which is ready to be independent of party leadership dictates on occasion.

But in both House and Senate Republican leaders demonstrated that most of their followers will be with them as loyal and vigorous opposition.

Fail to Oust Taft
A band of younger Senate Republicans made a bold but futile bid to dislodge Sen. Robert A. Taft as leader. He was re-elected Senate GOP policy committee chairman over Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (Mass.) by a 28-14 vote.

By the same margin Sen. Kenneth Wherry (Neb.), so-called old-guard candidate, defeated Sen. William F. Knowland (Cal.) for the minority leader's job.

Thus the group including, besides Messrs. Lodge and Knowland, such GOP Senators as Raymond Baldwin (Conn.), George Aiken (Vt.) and Ralph B. Flanders (Vt.), Charles Tobey (N. H.) and Wayne Morse (Ore.), was warmly spanked by its party elders.

Parties Face Split
Mr. Taft had contended he was as liberal as they were, anyway, and when it was over he said the Republicans wished to foster a progressive program but—unlike the Democrats—wanted to do it without infringing on personal liberties.

The first tests of the new Congress promised splits in both parties on some issues in coming months. The determined stand by the so-called Senate GOP progressive wing, although its members knew defeat by the Taft group, was almost certain, pre-sages trouble on other issues for Mr. Taft.

Scotland Yard Roundup Of Criminals Hinted
LONDON, Jan. 4 (UP)—Scotland Yard was expected today to order one of its rare roundups of criminals in an effort to halt a series of crimes including four murders in three weeks.

In addition to the murders there were a number of savage attacks with robbery as the motive. The latest murder victim was Frederick Edwards, 69, a watchman, who was beaten to death yesterday at a watch for less than \$20. Two other murder victims were bludgeoned and one was strangled.

Hershey Heads State Society
WASHINGTON, Jan. 4—Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, national draft director, today is the new president of the Indiana State Society of Washington. He succeeds Sen. Homer E. Gagehart (R. Ind.).

Mr. Hershey was chosen at a meeting of the executive committee of the society held last night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Whitlock. Other officers are Frank McCarthy, vice president; Mrs. Esther Costa, secretary, and Charles Baird, treasurer. The latter two are continuing.

Plans were formulated for an inaugural ball to be held by the society at the Shoreham Hotel Jan. 18 and for a Hoosier Art Salon in April. Gov. Henry F. Schrickler will be asked to be an honor guest at the ball and the Purdue University glee club will sing. The glee club is to be here at that time for the Truman-Barkley dinner, which is one of the festivities preceding the inauguration of President Truman Jan. 20.

Jap Women Commit Suicide Together
TOKYO, Jan. 4 (UP)—Two lovelorn Japanese women today committed double suicide after they were rejected by the men they loved.

Matsuko Komura, 26, and Etsuko Komura, 20, met for the first time in an inn, learned of their similar disappointments, and took poison together.

L. S. Ayres & Co. FRanklin 4411

January SALE AND CLEARANCE

Practical, wearable play clothes—at special, low prices!

DOUBLE KNEE JEANS AND WARM FLANNELETTE SHIRTS

Jeans, 1.79
Shirts, 1.49
Zelan Jacket, 2.95

Durable, sanforized denim jeans, with a zipper fly front, copper rivets and double knee patches for double wear! Team these with handsome, comfortable shirts in solid colors or gay plaids, sizes 2-4-6-8 included.

Shirts, sizes 4 to 8.
Zelan jacket, tan, red or brown, sizes 3 to 6x, 2.95.

Ayres' Little Boys' Shop, Fourth Floor

CLOSED MONDAYS
SHOP TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY
9:00 TO 5:25

Greatly Reduced!

Little Boys' and Little Girls'

WARM WINTER COATS

Little Girls' Coats, Sizes 2 to 6x Included

(40) Coats, originally 25.00 to 29.95 17.90
(30) Snow Suits with hats, originally 14.95 12.70
(15) Plaid top Zelan Pant Snow Suits, orig. 24.95 18.70
(25) Coat and Legging Sets, originally 39.95 to 45.00 ... 29.90
(15) Coat and Legging Sets, originally 49.95 37.50

Little Boys' Coats, Sizes 3 to 6 Included

(15) Three-Piece Winter Coat Sets, originally 27.95 ... 19.90
(20) Navy Winter Coats, originally 16.95 10.90
(10) Three-Piece Sets, originally 35.00 26.90
(20) Two-Piece Snow Suits, originally 15.75 11.80

Ayres' Little Boys' and Little Girls' Shops, Fourth Floor

TUESDAY, JAN. 4, 1949

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DIVORCE

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