

Around the World—

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 (UPI)—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 Nataanya, 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 cabled 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 pressed 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 forces 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 crew who have been flying food and fuel into Berlin. They have been replaced by eight 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—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 fluorine demonstration team that visited School 2, Ft. Wayne Ave. and Delaware St., yesterday.

House Spokesman Sees 'Entirely New' Labor Law

Michigan Democrat Scratches 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

the Wagner Act became law in 1935. It will contain good bits 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 to 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 Taft-Hartley act specifies that in cases where state laws restrict unions more severely, these shall take precedence over the federal act.

Mr. Thatcher said that if Congress repeals the Taft-Hartley law, or knocks out its ban on the closed shop, there will be nothing to prevent the AFL from taking its case to court again.

Except in Virginia, there have been remarkably few proceedings under the state labor laws. In Nevada, for instance, the closed shop ban has been on the books since 1931, yet not a single case has reached the state courts.

Face Auto Theft Charges in State

Two men indicted in South Bend for automobile theft will be returned to Indiana for prosecution following their arrest in Miami, Fla., and at March Field, Calif., FBI said today.

Albert Boyd Chambers, 18, who was serving as an Army private in California, and Walter George Rueske, captured in Florida, held up a truck driver near Fremont, O., and forced him to drive them to South Bend, agents said.

The truck driver, Howard Cecil Burdick, was driving one truck, towing another, and had stopped to check the tow cable when the holdup occurred.

Mr. South Bend, Mr. Burdick succeeded in escaping with one of the trucks but crashed it into a ditch. He completed his escape by swimming the St. Joseph River.

Attacked With Beer Bottle; Jaw Broken

Joe Burway, 37, of 317 Fulton St., was nursing a broken jaw in General Hospital today after he was slugged with a beer bottle by a companion.

After having a few drinks with a man whom he met in the 79 block of W. Washington St., Mr. Burway told police the man attacked him. He did not know his assailant's name.

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Mr. Lesinski said his committee would draft its idea of a new law before public hearings were held—"give the witnesses some time 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 employers and the public, as well as of labor."

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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 (UPI)—If crime didn't pay last year, it was because the boys were a little more butter-fingered than usual.

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 officials of the Travelers Indemnity Co. of Hartford today as they thumbed through the screwball crimes of 1948.

The year produced some whiziers, 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 bobbles took over from there.

At Provincetown, Mass., police searched a portly suspicious character and found him wearing two suits of clothes with the pockets containing stolen sun glasses, vitamins, 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 the clergyman's car.

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

When he opened the truck door to help them shift the load he found a stolen safe.

LACK of a dime was the undoing of a Portland, Me., car thief who got as far as a Hartford toll bridge and lacked the fare to continue his flight.

A Ft. Worth, Tex., robber didn't have the nerve to find a delivery service, assistant manager he recognized as an old school chum. He fled, embarrassed and empty-handed.

At Moultrie, Ga., they like to tell the story about the police officer who hit the jack-pot. He tapped a suspect on the shoulder and he spewed out \$3 in nickels and dimes.

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