

ARABS SAID TO RELY ON ATTRITION WAR

Leaders of 5 States at Amman Are Reported in Accord on Tactics in Palestine

AMMAN, Trans-Jordan, April 30 (UP)—Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt agreed today on a long-term military campaign to wear down the Jews in Palestine, reliable sources said tonight.

Military leaders of the five Arab countries, at a momentous conference here, were reported to have decided against the idea of a blitzkrieg campaign in Palestine because they lack the tens of thousands of well-trained and well-equipped troops needed for such an operation.

Hence they decided on a war of attrition or wearing down, sources close to them said.

It was added that the military leaders did not rule out the possibility that the Jews themselves might try a blitzkrieg campaign as soon as the British mandate expires on May 15.

Political leaders of the Arab states held a meeting of their own coincidentally with the military meeting.

They were said to have agreed on complete unity to fight for Palestine.

Steps Reported Agreed Upon

The military leaders were reported to have decided on the following steps:

- (1) The Arabs would try to hold strategic positions in Palestine after May 15 by throwing in the Trans-Jordan Arab Legion, units from the Syrian and Lebanese armies and about 4,000 Iraqi troops.
- (2) Egypt probably would provide complete artillery units, with officers and men, and planes with pilots and maintenance crews for Trans-Jordan's forces.
- (3) The regular Egyptian Army will assume responsibility for southern Palestine.

Qualified sources said that though there probably would not be an all-out attack by Arab regulars in the near future, these units would occupy various strategic positions in the Arab part of Palestine.

At the same time irregulars would carry on guerrilla warfare. The guerrillas were to cut Jewish communication lines and disrupt consolidation of a Jewish state.

It was generally agreed here that King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan would annex the Arab part of Palestine to this country. Then, backed by the other Arab countries, he might seek an agreement with the Jews, it was said.

Leaders who attended today's conferences included Regent Abdul Illah and Chief of Staff Gen. Saleh Saib of Iraq; Premier Riad, es-Solh, Defense Minister Emir Mejid Arslan and Commander in Chief Fouad Shehad of Lebanon; Premier Jamil Mardam, Defense Minister Ahmed Sharabaty and Commander in Chief Ismail Safwat of Syria, and a senior Egyptian officer.

Leaflets Dropped to Troops

Regent Abdul Illah left by plane for his capital of Baghdad. As the plane went over Iraq troops who are in this country awaiting the zero hour, it dropped pamphlets addressed to them by King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. The pamphlets said in part:

"My valiant soldiers: I greet and hail you. I believe you will accomplish your duties and the holy aim for which you are sent."

Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, said that volunteers to fight for the Arab cause were already moving toward the Holy Land from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"We have a unified command," he said. "The battles will take maybe six months and maybe a year, but the Jews cannot hold out against the Arab flood."

"Palestine will become a No Man's Land once the British mandate ends and Arabs have as much right either to seize the country or restore order as anyone else."