

# BRITAIN FEARS U. S. WILL ARM ISRAEL

## Shift on Palestine Embargo Spurs Misgivings as London Aid to Arabs Nears End

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LONDON, May 21—Reports from Washington that President Truman plans to lift the arms embargo on Palestine aroused keen misgivings here today. British officials are already very much worried about the deterioration of Anglo-American relations over Palestine and they point to the fact that their supplies of arms to the Arab countries are being dried up just as the United States seems to be ready to send arms to Palestine.

Criticism of United States policy on Palestine is truly fierce in Britain these days just as American criticism has been of British policy. Neither side seems to be giving any quarter.

Britons, particularly at the Foreign Office were asking why the United States press had been overlooking the fact that Britain was delivering only those arms ordered up to last January and in the pipeline to the Arab countries in conformity with Britain's treaties. No new shipments are being made and no new orders taken.

This means that British arms supply to the Arab countries will trickle and finally dry up. Now it looks as if at that moment United States arms will start flowing, mainly to Israel. British officials ask what they are supposed to say to the Arab countries with which they have treaty obligations if at the same time Israel is being armed.

While Britons find it difficult to deny that their sympathies go mainly to the Arabs they claim that their policy is one of seeking to end the hostilities.

### Feeling Is Anti-American

Allowing for some notable exceptions, the main feeling here these days is neither pro-Arab nor anti-Jewish; it is anti-American.

For instance, The Tablet, which is the main organ of the Catholic community in Britain, has a powerful attack on the Washington Administration in its front page editorial today. It is headed "An American Blunder" and refers primarily to President Truman's announcement of recognition of the state of Israel.

This is called "American foreign policy at its crudest," and "partisan opportunism" unworthy of a power "which seeks to stand as the chief custodian of order in international life." It is also called "double dealing" and "a disastrous step."

The Economist, another influential weekly, is more polite but equally critical. It refers to "the inconsistency once again displayed by President Truman," which, it says, makes war inevitable in Palestine and "induces a worldwide belief in American opportunism and sharp practice."

### Guardian Chides Bevin

The Manchester Guardian, which is one of the few pro-Zionist organs in Britain, argues strongly that Foreign Secretary Bevin should at least "recognize the facts, one of which will be the existence of a Jewish state, accepted as such by half of the world."

"Mr. Bevin has notoriously thrown over the policy of the Labor party, as expressed in many past conferences," The Guardian says editorially, "and what is worse, he has left it quite ambiguous whether the Government is not, by its lavish subsidies to Arab kings and its loan of British officers, ostentatiously backing one side in a civil war."

The London Times, which has been printing a notable series of letters to the editor on the Palestine situation, will publish a spirited defense of the Jews tomorrow morning over the signature of Maj. Lyall Wilkes, Laborite Member of Parliament, who fought in the Mediterranean theatre during World War II.

"Does public opinion at home," asks Major Wilkes, "appreciate (as it does abroad) that every tank and airplane now being used by the Arabs has been supplied from the United Kingdom; that the British air mission is still functioning in Iraq; that British missions are now working, training and re-equipping Arab armies in Saudi Arabia and Iraq; that between 1945 and 1947 we supplied Egypt alone with forty military aircraft, thirty-eight scout cars and 298 carriers apart from a great quantity of small arms and light equipment; that the Arab Legion, now waging war, is wholly subsidized by us with £2,000,000 [\$8,000,000] a year and is commanded by thirty-eight British officers?"

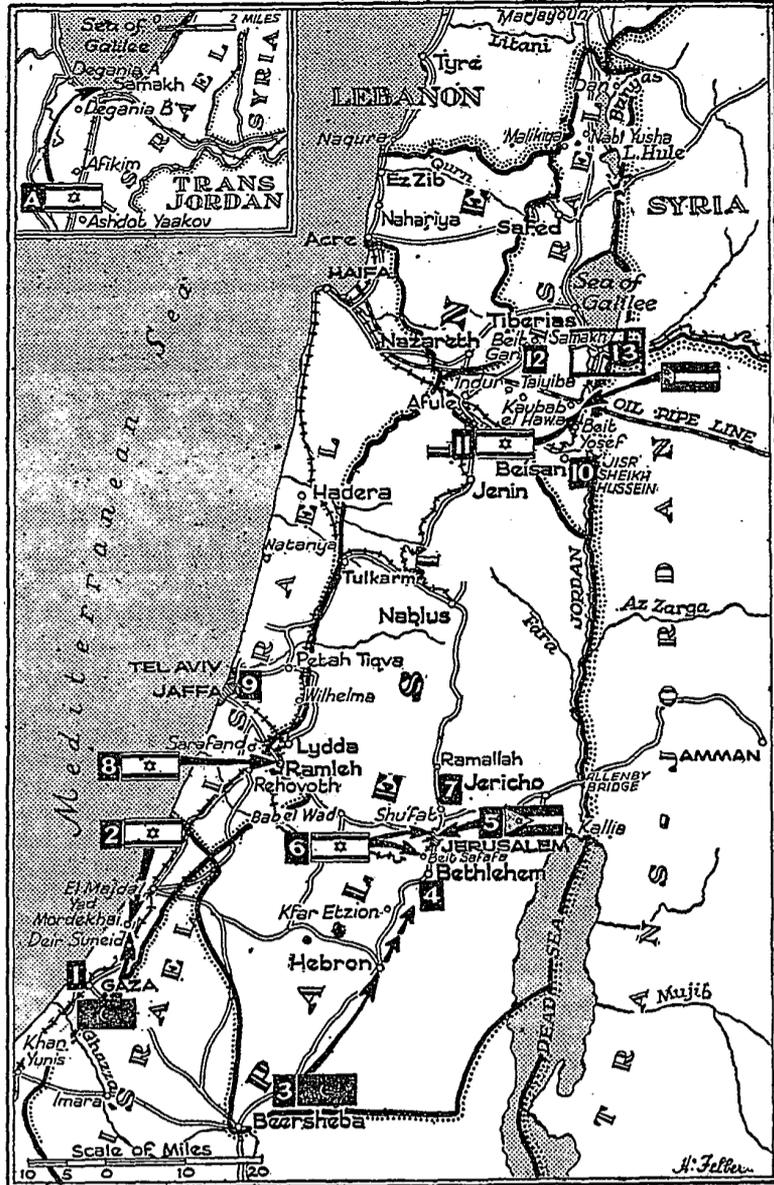
Major Wilkes in his letter points to the Jewish war record on behalf of the Allies in the Middle East at a time when the Arabs were not only pro-German but even fought for the Germans.

### Recalls Jewish War Record

"Will we never learn," he asks, "that we cannot subsidize aggression in the Middle East and oppose it in Greece or Persia, and that to climb now into the grandstand and attempt to wash our hands of responsibility for the slaughter perpetrated by our Spitfires and British-trained and officered Arab troops is conduct utterly unworthy of the traditions of a great nation and indicates moral degeneration within the political leadership of this country far more alarming than any signs of a merely materialistic or economic decline?"

Meanwhile the executive committee of the British Communist party issued a statement urging immediate recognition of the State of Israel and the cessation of all supplies and subsidies to the Arab states.

## THE BATTLE FOR PALESTINE IS UNABATED



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As Israeli planes bombed Gaza and Deir Suneid (1), Tel Aviv announced its troops had repulsed the Egyptians at Yad Mordekhai (2). Cairo reported its forces had occupied Hebron (3) and pushed patrols close to Bethlehem (4). The defenders in the Old City in Jerusalem (5) were hard pressed by Trans-Jordan's Arab Legion, but Israeli units counter-attacked in a northern section and at Beit Safafa (6). Their fliers attacked Legion concentrations at Shu'fat (7). Irgun Zvai Leumi forces penetrated Ramleh (8). The Egyptian air force again bombed Tel Aviv (9). Iraqi planes raided Beisan (10) and Taiyiba, Indur and Beit Gan (12). Iraqi and Israeli ground forces battled in the Jordan Valley (11). In the Samakh area (13) Israeli troops drove the Syrians from Samakh (A on inset), but the latter said they destroyed the settlements of Degania A, Degania B, Afikim and Ashdot Yaakov.