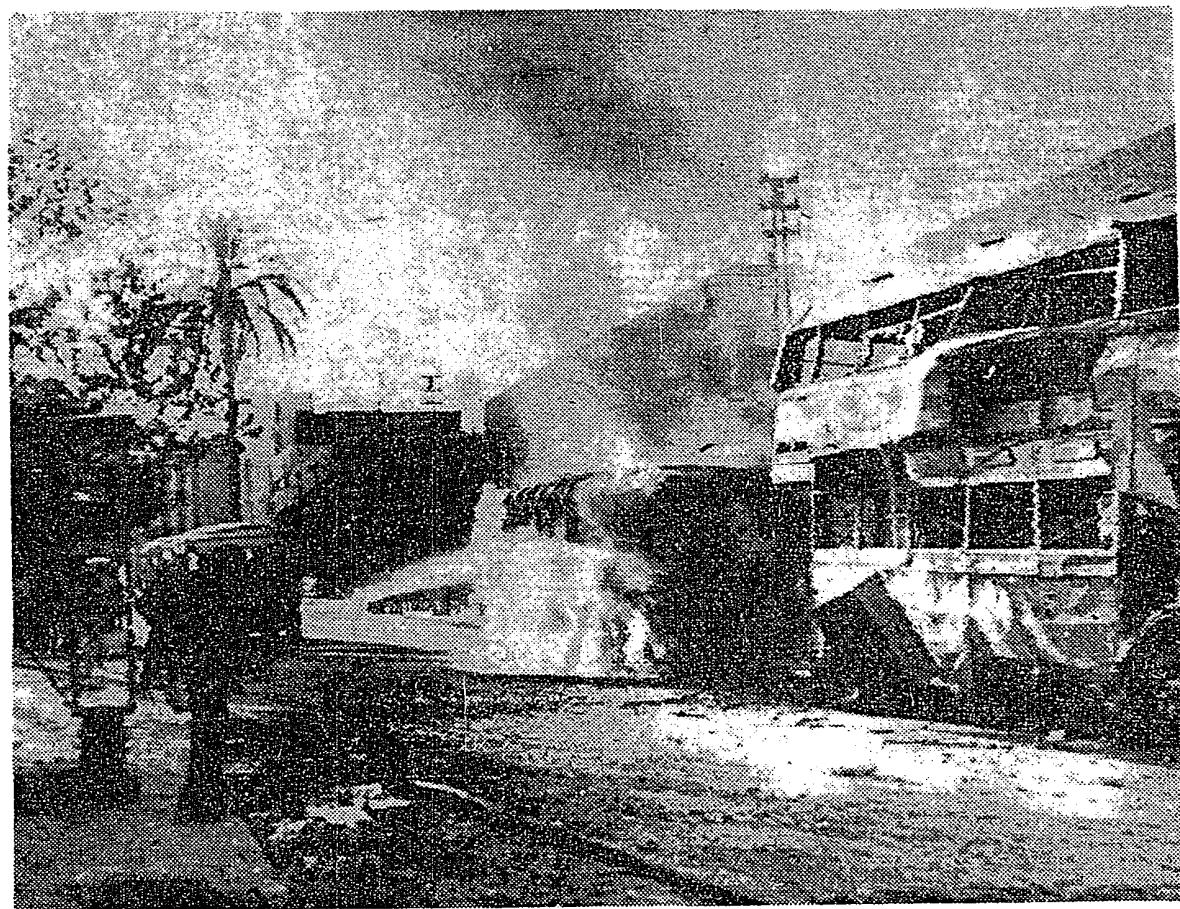


IN WAKE OF AIR ATTACKS ON TEL AVIV



Firemen turning hoses on burning buses after Egyptian planes bombed and strafed a civilian bus station Tuesday, killing forty-one and wounding sixty-five. Associated Press Radiophoto

ISRAEL SETS HALT
IN FIRING FOR NOON
IF ARABS ACQUIESCE

Tel Aviv, Accepting U. N. Call,
Warns It Will Continue Fight
if Foes Do Not Stop Then

EGYPT DRAFTING A REPLY

Arabs Confer but Give No
Details—Offer Truce to Let
Jerusalem Jews Get Food

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 23—The Israeli Government issued a cease-fire order today in response to a plea from the United Nations Security Council, the State Department was informed through its diplomatic channels.

The Tel Aviv order to all forces to stop fighting at 8 P. M. Monday Jerusalem time [noon Monday, Eastern Daylight Time] was based on the proviso that "the other side" also lay down arms at the time.

The information came from William C. Burdette, United States Vice Consul in Jerusalem, who said in a message that it had been given him by "a Jewish Agency spokesman." [A dispatch from Tel Aviv said the announcement there was made by the Haganah, the Zionist Army.]

U. S. Makes No Comment

The State Department said it would have no comment today.

[At Lake Success, the United States delegation, submitted to Trygve Lie, United Nations Secretary General, a copy of the Israeli message as sent by Mr. Burdette.]

The message from the vice consul follows:

"Provisional Government of Israel has ordered cease-fire on all fronts as of 20:00 hours local Jewish time May 24 (8 P. M. Monday in Jerusalem).

"If the other side ceases fire at any earlier hour, then the Jewish cease-fire order comes into effect at that earlier hour.

"If after 20:00 hours Jewish local time, the other side does not cease fire, Jewish defense must continue."

Mr. Burdette said that the Jewish Agency official told him the announcement originated in Tel Aviv, seat of the Israeli Government. It followed receipt of the appeal Saturday from the United Nations Security Council, and was in response to it, the spokesman was reported to have informed the United States Consul.

The Security Council voted 8 to 0 to call upon "all Governments and authorities" to abstain from "hostile military acts" in the Holy Land within thirty-six hours from last midnight.

This was a compromise measure adopted after Warren R. Austin, United States member, had failed to win acceptance of a proposal to determine the existence of a threat to and breach of the peace. Mr. Austin explained that the United States voted for the watered-down resolution "solely because of the call upon the parties to cease fire."

State Department spokesmen offered no speculation on what the Arab response, if any, to the United Nations plea might be.

Prospects of a truce would have important bearing on diplomatic conversations under way here and in London with regard to United States-British relations over Palestine. At the end of the week, talks had been undertaken in both capitals to prevent the misunderstanding between the two English-speaking countries from widening into a serious breach.