CHAGRIN IN BRITAIN ON PALESTINE RISES
By HERBERT L.MATTHEWSSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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U.S. View Turns Hope to Gloom —London Orders 21 in Arab Legion Out of Holy Land

By HERBERT L. MATTHEWS
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 28—This was a day of gathering gloom at the Foreign Office. Early hopes that the United States would back Britain's truce plan for Palestine were dashed. The belief that British-United States tension on this problem would be eased has been succeeded by grimness.

It was believed that Foreign Secretary Bevin felt that he was going a long way toward meeting the American position and that he was showing accommodation in forcing some British officers with the Arab Legion to withdraw from Palestine. At the same time he and his Government have taken a decided stand on the general proposition of imposing a solution against the will of the Arabs or Israel.

One must take it for granted that the old policy remains. Britons have seen in the United States tactics this week an effort to embroil the British against the Arabs. Some have talked privately as if the United States was trying to work up a situation in which the United Nations would place the Arabs in the wrong and in which the United Nations, including Britain, which still has about 20,000 troops in Palestine, would be forced to fight the Arabs.

Even in official circles where no such thoughts about American wishes are entertained, it is said firmly that Britain will not use those troops against the Arabs or Israel unless they are attacked and that then they would only defend themselves.

No Other Plan in View

Britain has no other plan for Palestine than that offered yesterday by Sir Alexander Cadogan in the United Nations Security Council. Her emphasis is wholly on using the United Nations mediator, Count Bernadotte, to engineer a truce and then to seek an agreed solution between the Arabs and Israel.

The Foreign Office has felt that there must be a solution that the Arabs and Israel would accept. If the United States and the Soviet Union try to force a solution that to Britain is a case of siding with Israel, against the Arabs, the international aspect of the Palestine situation will be bad, it was said.

The British have sent a communication to Amman recalling from Palestine the twenty-one officers who were seconded from the British Army to the Trans-Jordanian Army. These officers can stay with the Arab Legion but must leave the Holy Land. This does not apply to Brig. John Bagot Glubb Pasha or about fifteen other officers who are British citizens and employed as individuals.

The British Government is studying the implications of the effort by Syria and Egypt to blockade the coast of Palestine. It is presumed that protests similar to those made by the United States will be sent.

Winston Churchill singled out the Labor Government's handling of the Palestine problem as the outstanding item in a catalogue of incompetence that he drew up against it.

Addressing Scottish Conservatives in Perth, he said that no sooner were the Socialists in power than they turned their backs on all pledges they had given to the Zionists in the 1945 general election campaign, thereby causing deep disappointment and anger among the Jews of Palestine.

Recalls Advice on Mandate

It would have been possible, Mr. Churchill added, to make an equitable partition of Palestine on the morrow of victory in the war, using the forces Britain had and the influence and reputation she had acquired.

Even when that opportunity had been lost, he said, Britain could still have laid down her League of Nations mandate in August, 1946, as he suggested, with results much less destructive and damaging than those that have ensued. Instead the Government waited for nearly eighteen months.

The result now, the Conservative leader declared, is that the faithful work of nearly thirty years in the Holy Land has ended in ignominy and that Britain may be involved in a dispute with the United States.

Concern here over the fate of Jerusalem was expressed in two messages to Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, one from the Convocation of Canterbury, which is meeting in London, and the other signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey F. Fisher, acting as president of the World Council of Churches.

Temporary Truce Asked

"With the support of the Bishops and clergy of the Province of Canterbury," reads the former telegram, "[I] urgently represent that all parties shall combine to establish a temporary truce in Palestine or, at least in Jerusalem, that the distress and shame of fighting in the Holy City, which is an offense and scandal to the religious conscience of Christians, Moslems and Jews, may be ended."

"As president of the World Council of Churches," wrote Dr. Fisher in his second message, "[I] strongly support any steps to achieve a truce in Palestine without prejudice to either party. Christian opinion throughout the world is deeply stirred by the horror of the fighting in the Holy Land and desires to see peace which does not do injustice to either side."

The Tablet, the most influential organ of the Roman Catholic community here, put the British case in blunt terms.

"It ought to be understood that the more pro-Zionist the Americans become," it said, in a leading article, "the more and not less necessary is it for Britain, the other end of the Anglo-American axis on which the hopes of the world primarily depend, to remain in the Middle East on as good terms as possible with Islam and all the chain of Arab states."

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