ARABS SAID TO BACK NEUTRAL HOLY CITY
By SAM POPE BREWERSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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Accord Depends Upon Israel —League Ties Full Solution to Dropping of Partition

By SAM POPE BREWER
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Egypt, June 16—The Arab countries have agreed in principle to making Jerusalem neutral ground, subject to unqualified agreement by the Jews.

With that much, at least gained, Count Bernadotte, the United Nations' Mediator, leaves tomorrow morning for Tel Aviv to put his proposals—still kept secret—before the Israeli representatives.

The Arab League's committee on the truce met again this morning and, in addition to the Jerusalem question, discussed preliminaries to finding some new settlement of the Palestine question as a whole. They agreed, it is understood, that no delegation "on a political level" should be sent to Rhodes but that a group of technical experts on the Palestine problem should go there to discuss the situation with Count Bernadotte.

They also agreed, according to a highly competent Arab source, that the leading role in all the proceedings connected with the truce should be played by the Palestine Arabs.

The Arab League, he said, considered that its members were acting in Palestine only on behalf of the Arabs of Palestine. While there was fighting, he said, they gave military aid, but in the negotiations the Palestine Arabs were able to handle their own affairs with merely the moral backing from the other states.

Four Arab representatives are expected to go to Rhodes in a few days though the exact date of the beginning of the talks there has not been settled.

There is no question yet of any round-table meetings of Arab and Jewish representatives, and all Arab sources still say firmly that they will never sit down with Jewish delegates because they do not recognize their right to negotiate as a separate nation.

The scene of activity shifts to Tel Aviv tomorrow with Count Bernadotte's departure at 9:30 A. M. for the Jewish capital where he expects to spend two days before proceeding to Rhodes to begin the actual efforts to find a basis for agreement between the two sides.

The form of his first proposals for steps toward such an agreement is still being kept secret though it is under study by the Arab leaders here.

The Arabs are most emphatic on the one point on which they say the whole question of success or failure for Count Bernadotte hinges—whether the Jews will give up the idea of having a sovereign state.

Asked today what would be the consequences of an Arab military defeat through intervention by the great powers, an Arab intimately involved in the present talks said emphatically that all Arab countries would have revolts.

The Russians, he charged, are backing the formation of a Jewish state because they know that if it succeeds the Arab populations will rise against their governments in protest and the Russians will benefit by aiding these revolts and in establishing Russian influence in the Middle East.

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