ARABS FORMULATE POSITION ON PEACE
By DANA ADAMS SCHIMDTSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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pg. 11

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Formal Agreement With Israel Held Unlikely but Long Halt in Hostilities Is Seen

By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 24—King Abdullah's trip to Cairo and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha's visit to Beirut and Damascus, Syria, have set in motion a round of intensive diplomatic activity that is expected to culminate in formulation of the Arab attitude toward Count Folke Bernadotte's mediation efforts. This is due to come at a meeting of the Arab League political commission, beginning Saturday.

Lebanon and Syria were opposed from the start to the acceptance of the Palestine cease-fire. Their leaders in public statements have shown more reluctance than those of any other Arab state to transforming the truce into a peace.

Iraq's forces had only just begun to go into action at the time of the cease-fire, and Egypt's had been by no means fully committed. But the last word in the Arab consultations is likely to be up to King Abdullah, whose Arab Legion has achieved the principal Arab military successes and is best equipped to occupy Palestinian territory.

Formal Peace Not Expected

Many neutral observers who have had access to both Arab and Israeli areas in recent weeks believe that a clear-cut formal peace between Jews and Arabs is most improbable. In principle, Arab and Israeli objectives remain as irreconcilable as ever. No Arab statesman is going to sign an agreement recognizing Israel's sovereignty and the right to unlimited immigration and none of the Israeli leaders is prepared to sign an agreement for anything less.

But such observers also believe that if, as reportedly stated by a London Foreign Office spokesman, a tacit understanding on Middle Eastern questions has been reached between Britain and the United States and if Count Bernadotte avoids confronting Jews and Arabs with hard yes or no questions, the fighting in Palestine may be ended for some time to come.

With every day that the fighting is postponed its resumption becomes psychologically more difficult. In some places refugees are returning home. In Jerusalem the Security Council's Truce Commission is working on plans to give the Arabs access to their homes in the Jewish-held new city and to give the Jews access to the Wailing Wall.

It is planning a resumption of the water supply to Arab and Jewish parts of the town. Local arrangements have been made to permit Arabs and Jews to harvest their crops. United Nations observers are on the spot at the most critical points.

Latest indications reaching diplomatic quarters are that King Abdullah would accept the internationalization of Jerusalem if the Jews agreed to internationalize Haifa and give up their claim to most of the Negeb. On these points the prospects for agreement seem brightest.

Most of the Arab countries appeared determined to maintain some form of economic blockade of Israel whatever other arrangements may be made.

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