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Mediator Holds Attack Upon Convoy Contrary to Truce—Gives Details in Report

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., June 25—Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations Mediator in Palestine, reported by wireless to the Security Council tonight that Egypt's action in halting an Israeli food convoy was contrary to the "letter and spirit" of the truce. He added that he had "protested vigorously" to the Egyptian Government and demanded a full explanation.

Terming the incident, which took place at Negba, about thirty miles from the Egyptian frontier, "serious," the Mediator said the convoy was unarmed and was under a United Nations escort. He declared that the Egyptian commander, "backed by Egyptian Government" had resisted with force and that during the incident fifteen hits were scored by Egyptian Spitfires that attacked a United Nations observer plane while it was landing inside Jewish occupied territory.

"Fortunately the American pilot of the plane was not injured," said Count Bernadotte, adding that he would send an additional report on the entire series of events as soon as the full facts were known.

[A dispatch from Rhodes said the mediator had also protested to the Israeli Government that his observers had been refused access to an area near Natanya during the course of an alleged incident on Monday.]

Optimism on Truce Is Hurt

His report considerably diminished optimism here regarding continuance of the four-week truce, which became effective two weeks ago. The Mediator made it plain that he had given several notices to the Egyptian Government of his decision to allow the passage of the convoy, which, he said, was intended to prevent Jewish settlements in the Negeb from being starved out during the truce.

"On 19 June Colonel [Paul] Bonde, personal representative of the Mediator," Count Bernadotte reported, "confirmed the Egyptian commander-in-chief in Palestine that under terms of truce agreement Jewish food convoys under UN supervision were entitled to pass through territory under Egyptian control to Jewish settlements in the Negeb.

"On 22 June I formally notified Egyptian Government of my decision that it was consistent with terms of the truce that these convoys should be allowed to pass and that if no answer received from Egyptian side first convoy under UN supervision would proceed on Friday, 25 June.

"Basis for my decision this regard was that truce should neither work to military advantage or disadvantage of either side. If pretext truce should be used to starve out Jewish settlements in Negeb for four-week period without normal hazards of war action this would be clear military advantage for Egyptians and reverse for Jews, thus contrary to both letter and spirit of the truce.

"My position is that supplies to these settlements should be under U. N. supervision and in such quantities as to ensure that no reserve stocks could be built up with view to improve Jewish position at end of the truce. Similar arrangement was made for Jerusalem and has worked well.

"Egyptian Government on 24 June informed me that it could not accept my interpretation of truce agreement and requested cancellation of convoy scheduled for 25 June. Convoy was instructed to proceed however since Jewish settlers had been living on their reserves for two weeks before incident occurred."

Some sources expressed the belief tonight that the incident resulted primarily from conflicting claims by two Arab leaders, King Farouk of Egypt and King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, to the Negeb. Egyptian forces promptly advanced into the Negeb as soon as fighting broke out in Palestine after the termination of the British mandate on May 15, although the exact extent of the desert area they continue to occupy is unknown.

King Abdullah's Arab Legion apparently has remained in the neighborhood of Jerusalem, but a dispatch from Beirut today indicated that he would agree to the internationalization of Jerusalem if Israel would agree to an international regime for Haifa and give up its claim to part of the Negeb. Under the partition plan, part of the Negeb, including the area along the Mediterranean, was assigned to the Arabs, but the remainder, running eastward to the Gulf of Aqaba, was part of the Jewish state.

This rivalry, it is feared, may have a more serious effect on continuance of the truce than the fighting that developed in Tel Aviv earlier in the week between forces of the Provisional Israeli Government and the extremist Irgun Zvai Leumi, which, in fact, wants to take over not only the Arab part of Palestine, but Trans-Jordan as well.

Pending a complete report from Count Bernadotte there was no indication tonight whether the Security Council would be called into session by Faris el-Khouri, Syrian representative, whose month as chairman expires Wednesday. The Council had previously disposed of the Palestine question for the time being, and agreed earlier today not to meet until Thursday, July 1, when Dmitri Z. Manuilsky, Ukrainian Foreign Minister, will take over as chairman.

Three non-member states, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland, informed the Security Council today that they were cooperating in measures to prevent the departure of arms and fighting men for Palestine and the territory of the seven members of the Arab League. The Swiss Government said that, in addition, it would refuse to issue exit permits for foreigners between the ages of 15 and 50.

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