ISRAEL IS ALERT FOR WAR

Army Commander Cites Reported Aims of Egyptian Regime

TEL AVIV, Israel, Feb. 26 (Reuters)—The Israel Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, announced tonight that the 250,000-strong Israeli Army was preparing for the eventuality of war with the Arab states.

His disclosure came soon after the Israeli Government expressed "serious concern" over the "violent changes taking place in neighboring Syria."

An official Foreign Office statement said events in Syria "compel Israel to observe an attitude of watchful alertness." These changes in a neighboring state that "has always shown implacable hostility to Israel, are fraught with incalculable consequences and cannot but cause the Government of Israel serious concern," the statement said.

The Chief of Staff referred to a recent interview in which the present Egyptian Premier, Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdul Nasser, was said to have declared that Israel must give up all territory south of a line from Gaza to Beersheba. General Dayan implied that any steps taken by Egypt to implement such plans would lead to war.

The Israeli Defense Minister, Pinhas Lavon, told the same meeting that the Israeli Government was not accepting advice that urged Israel to exploit the present unrest in the Middle East for territorial expansion.

The independent evening newspaper Maariv called on the Israeli Government to occupy the Gaza strip inside Egypt and "drive to the Suez Canal."

The Right-Wing Heruth (Freedom) party, once the anti-British terrorist movement Irgun Zvai Leumi, also appealed to the Israeli people to "seize this historical opportunity to liberate occupied parts of the fatherland.

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