CHURCHILL UPHELD ON SUEZ, 257 TO 26
By BENJAMIN WELLESSpecial to The New York Times.
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CHURCHILL UPHELD ON SUEZ, 257 TO 26

Conservative Revolt Fizzles and Most Laborites Abstain —Base Is Held Obsolete

By BENJAMIN WELLES
Special to The New York Times.

LONDON, July 29—The Conservative back-bench "revolt" against the Government's new agreement with Egypt fizzled out tonight and the Government won overwhelming approval for its plan to evacuate the Suez Canal base.

After five hours of debate the House of Commons sanctioned the "Heads of Agreement," reached two days ago with the Egyptian Government, by 257 votes to 26—a majority of 231.

Virtually the entire Labor Opposition abstained from voting as the evacuation plan already had Labor's support. The voting showed that one-third of the forty Conservative "rebels" balked at the last minute at balloting against their own leaders.

While the Government won clear support from its own ranks, and tacit support from the Opposition for evacuating the 80,000 British troops from Egypt in the next twenty months, today's debate was marked by bitter taunts leveled by Clement R. Attlee, Labor Opposition chief, at what he called an agreement on "certainly the worst terms * * * I have ever seen."

Denies Labor Charges

Moreover, Labor charges that Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill had encouraged his party's rebels "under the table" to resist the official evacuation policy led the Prime Minister into an angry retort that this was an "absolute untruth."

Sir Winston, speaking with deep emotion, argued how "out of proportion" the Suez base and Britain's position in Egypt had become as a result of "the appalling development" of hydrogen and atomic weapons.

"Merely to try to imagine in outline how to portray the first few weeks of a war as it is now under conditions which we did not know about when this session commenced," he said, would convince members of the "obsolescence" of the canal base.

The information obtained since Parliament began its current session referred, observers thought, to the talks Sir Winston and President Eisenhower held in Washington a few weeks ago. In those discussions, it is believed, the terrible effects of hydrogen weapons were exhaustively weighed.

"I have not held my mind closed to the tremendous changes that have taken place in the whole strategic position of the world," Sir Winston told the House. He said they had made thoughts, "well-founded and well-knit" up to a year ago, now "obsolete—utterly obsolete."

With the Government's policy on this issue confirmed, the

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Churchill Upheld on Suez, 257-26; 'Revolt' Fizzles, Labor Abstains

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House will rise tomorrow for an eleven-week summer recess.

Antony Head, Secretary of State for War, who led the British negotiating team in Cairo, stated the Government's case for evacuation. He cited three main reasons:

1. The advent of the hydrogen and atomic weapons has virtually eliminated the threat of a major Soviet foray into the Middle East because Soviet supply lines would be overextended and vulnerable.
2. The entry of Turkey into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, plus her growing military association with Pakistan, means that there is now a new "northern" defense line for the Middle East to replace the old reliance on the Suez Canal base.
3. Britain cannot afford militarily to keep 80,000 troops bottled up in Suez and must create a strategic reserve in the British Isles soon.

Mr. Attlee termed Mr. Head's reasoning "sound sense." He noted, however, that the Labor Government had proposed the same thing immediately after World War II only to be met with the Conservatives' scorn.

"We have borne for years with these accusations freely thrown about of 'scuttle,'" Mr. Attlee said.

"Now that we come down to this agreement," he declared, "we hope it will be carried out: but it is certainly the worst terms on this that I have ever seen."

The severest censure of the Government's evacuation plan came from Capt. Charles Waterhouse, Conservative back-bencher and leader of the "rebels."

"This is not a sell-out; this is a give-away," he asserted.

Mr. Eden denied that there would be a "vacuum" in the Middle East, declaring that the British "main base, the base for war," would remain in Egypt. Cyprus will not become a new base, he affirmed, although the Government has announced that the British Middle East land and air headquarters has moved there.

The British troops will move gradually from Egypt to Britain to Libya, to Jordan and to "forward" bases, Mr. Eden said, without specifying locations.

"It is somewhat ludicrous to be accused of scuttling when by your arrangements you are trying to get nearer your possible enemy than you were before," he said.

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