Text of Nasser Broadcast Vowing to Fight
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pg. 5

Text of Nasser Broadcast Vowing to Fight

LONDON, Nov. 1 (Reuters)—Following is the text, in unofficial translation from Arabic, of a speech by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser over the Cairo radio today:

Citizens! Peace be with you!

These are decisive times in the history of our country as I am speaking to each one of you. At this time, the thoughts of us all are turning to our country and its safety, honor and dignity. Egypt is faced with the choice of living a free and honorable, dignifed and good life or a life of tyranny.

I feel and sense that each one of you desires to live in freedom, honor and dignity, to live a good life and not a life of slavery, for death is better than slavery.

Our most important objective was to create an honorable life in all parts of the land. However, did imperialism allow us to work towards this objective? Imperialism wanted us to be its servants.

We appealed for peace and said: "We work for the welfare of Egypt" but imperialism wanted us to work for its own ends, to work for the realization of its policy.

We said we are friends of those who are friends with us and we oppose those who oppose us. We have no aggressive aims. Our policy was clear and plain. These were the aims we proclaimed.

Britain was always sly with Egypt.

Thus she was in the days of Mohammed Ali when she found that Egypt's armed forces were strong and were able to put an end to British influences. And thus Britain conspired against Egypt.

After that, in 1882, Britain would not have Egypt ruled by a strong personality [Ahmed Arabi Bey, who campaigned against foreign interference].

Unity Is Stressed

And so, Britain conspired against Egypt and succeeded in subjecting her. That is history, our history in the past.

But today, after Egypt has become a single, united and monolithic bloc, will history repeat itself?

What happened in the past was caused by our divisions. Today we face these conspiracies with a single bloc, with one mind. These conspiracies between France, Britain and Israel began with a surprise attack by Israel, Monday, Oct. 29, without any reason for Britain's conspiracy.

Our armed forces began discharging their duty. Our air force, too, began to do its duty and fought.

But, when it became evident that Egypt was able to control the course of the battle and when Britain found that the Egyptian Air Force was able to command the sky battle, Britain began to show her intentions.

On Oct. 30, Egypt received the Anglo-French ultimatum. That ultimatum asked for a cease-fire to stop hostilities while the Israeli forces, aggressive Israeli forces, were on Egyptian territory.

Both Egypt and Israel were asked to withdraw 10 miles from the Suez Canal.

Thus, Egypt and Israel are asked to accept the occupation of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez by the Anglo-French armed forces for the protection of Suez Canal navigation.

This was asked at a time when navigation continued uninterrupted and while the Egyption forces massed to meet the aggressive Israeli forces and to drive back the Israeli forces.

Britain said in her ultimatum that unless we accepted it within 12 hours she would take action to stop that fight.

We shall not accept an Anglo-French occupation of a part of Egypt's land. We shall not accept this occupation at all, but shall fight for freedom, honor, dignity and self-respect. That is our position after this ultimatum.

We cannot allow, cannot accept, cannot agree to the occupation of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez by foreign Anglo-French forces and Egypt declared that this is a violation of her freedom—the freedom, sovereignty and dignity of the Egyptian people.

Battle Successes Claimed

Israel then announced—Israel, the ally of Britain and the ally of France—that she agreed to these conditions.

Of course Israel would agree. The fight would stop and Israel would be within ten miles of the canal, or ten kilometers [about six miles] within the canal, although she was the aggressive force and while our forces were winning.

Thus we would be forced to accept the occupation—the occupation of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez.

Of course Israel would agree because she was the only state which was opposed to the British evacuation of the Suez Canal Zone.

We notified the [United Nations] Security Council, the Security Council held a meeting, but Britain and France flouted all international laws, the United Nations charter, world public opinion and opposed the decision to stop the fighting.

Eden said that Britain would not recognize decisions of the Security Council * * * (several words inaudible). Thus, the Security Council was unable to act.

Yesterday, Oct. 31, our armed forces had the upper hand in the fighting. Our air force had the upper hand in combat with the Israeli Air Force.

We tell you this because this battle is your battle.

Israel's losses were considerable: eighteen planes while we lost two.

Our forces, which were distributed, were massed and rushed at top speed to meet the Israeli aggression. They were massed to meet Israel, although Britain and France were on Israel's side.

Despite all this, our air force commanded Egypt's skies.

At 7 o'clock yesterday, after this success of our air and land forces, the British Ministry of Defense issued a statement that they would bomb Egyptian airfields as a result of Egypt's rejection of the Anglo-French ultimatum to withdraw her forces to the distance of ten miles from the canal.

Of course, this talk was nonsense.

We rejected the occupation. Britain's claim that she would bomb Egyptian airfields because Egypt refused to withdraw her forces is sophistry and a plain lie.

Then, since yesterday, Britain and France started their air raids against Cairo, the Suez Canal Zone and Alexandria.

Their purpose was clear. Their purpose, the purpose of attacking our airfields, was to destroy the Egyptian Air Force, which showed its obvious superiority in the past two days.

Thus, the strategy of the enemy — the Anglo-French-Israeli alliance — has become plain. It became evident that they aim at destroying our aircraft which protect our forces in the Sinai [Peninsula], and then their destruction and the occupation of Egypt.

A vital decision had to be taken. Shall our forces be left at the borders without air protection? The British, French and Israeli air forces cooperate against the Egyptian Air force hand in glove. The strategy became plain and so did the situation.

A vital decision had to be taken to defeat the aims of the Anglo-French-Israeli strategy and so that we should be able to preserve our main forces. [Several words inaudible].

I told the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, Gen. Abdel Hakim Amer, to protect our armed forces and move the bulk of them to the East, to foil the British, French and Israeli attempts to destroy our main forces.

This began to be put into effect yesterday.

Total War Is Pledged

Now, citizens, that we face this situation, shall we fight or surrender? The history of peoples in struggle serves as an example.

Much patience, confidence and faith is needed so that Egypt wins her victory. Egypt has always declared that she would fight to defend her sovereignty, freedom and honor.

We shall fight, citizens, the oppression which wants to thwart our freedom. We shall fight, my brethren, for our freedom and the freedom of our people.

We shall fight, as we always said we would, in a total war, the soldiers and the people, the Egyptian people by the side of the armed forces.

Peoples fought from ancient times against the forces of tyranny and they have won.

Yugoslavia fought. She fought with her meager weapons the German armor and the Luftwaffe. Aggressive Germany lost and Yugoslavia won.

Greece fought against forces superior in numbers and resources. Greece, too, won and the aggressive forces lost.

Indonesia, too, fought against forces superior in number and resources but Indonesia won and the aggressive forces lost.

And now, your brethren in Algeria are waging an embittered fight against half a million French for their freedom and dignity.

And now there are fighters in Cyprus waging a fight and battling against the British Army and even the French Army, which is there now, for their freedom and independence.

'Fight From Village to Village'

A force including some of you was besieged for four months in Faluja during the Palestine War by attacking Jewish forces. We defended ourselves.

I was with that force. We were asked to surrender. To this, I replied to a Jewish officer who made this request: "We are now defending the honor of Egypt, the honor of the Egyptian armed forces."

We shall fight, citizens, a bitter fight and shall not surrender so that we may defend the honor of Egypt, her freedom and dignity.

Each one of you, my brethren, is a soldier in the National Liberation Army. Orders have been issued to distribute arms, and we have plenty of arms.

We shall fight a bitter battle. We shall fight from village to village, from house to house, because each one of you, my fellow countrymen, is a soldier in the armed forces, to defend our honor and to defend our dignity and to defend our freedom.

It is our resolution that we shall fight and not surrender.

We shall fight, fight and not surrender.

Today, my brethren, we turn a new page in our history. We now need patience and faith so that we may win a victory.

I promise you, my brethren, that I shall fight with you for your freedom until the last drop of my blood.

Peace be upon you and the mercy of God.



Associated Press Radiophoto

BOLSTERING CAIRO'S DEFENSE: Egyptian troops on their way yesterday to posts

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