EGYPTIANS TOLD OF TRUCE DECISION
By ERIC PACE Special to The New York Times
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pg. 1

EGYPTIANS TOLD OF TRUCE DECISION

Cairo Broadcast Is Terse —Syrians Also Announce Approval of Cease-Fire

By ERIC PACE
Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Friday, June 9—The Government told the Egyptian people this morning that it had conditionally accepted a cease-fire in the war with Israel.

There was no immediate popular reaction because the Cairo radio waited until early morning before announcing, more than three hours after the fact, that the United Arab Republic had told Secretary General Thant of the United Nations that it would agree to a truce if Israel did so.

[The Damascus radio announced that Syria, too, had accepted the cease-fire, Reuters reported. Page 17.]

Cairo was blacked out as protection against possible Israeli air raids when the news came, but nocturnal strollers reported that policemen were already taking down at least some of the anti-Israeli banners that have festooned the city for the last few weeks.

An early edition of a popular Cairo newspaper, Al Akhbar, put the news on the front page but made no comment. There was also no elaboration from the radio, which broadcast a military communiqué saying that the battle against Israel was continuing at all points along the Egyptian front.

The terse announcement of the cease-fire contrasted with

Continued on Page 17, Column 2

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Cairo's Radio Tells Nation of Cease-Fire Decision

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

the florid commentaries on war news during the last four days. It seemed to be meant to cushion the populace against a too abrupt change from a war psychology to the prospect of a truce with the enemy.

As dawn approached there was no indication here of when the fighting might actually cease or when the Suez Canal might be reopened.

Yesterday the Egyptian Supreme Military Command announced that its air force had inflicted heavy damage on Israeli troops and armor trying to advance westward from El Arish, a strategic road center in the Sanai Peninsula.

The Cairo press also reported that Egyptian forces had shot down 25 enemy planes over the Sinai Peninsula, Sharm el Sheik and Suez.

Informed sources who declined to be identified said that the Israelis had bombed a steel plant and a factory operated by the military in Helwan, an industrial center south of Cairo. There was no word on any damage.

The Egyptian press and radio have not reported the raid, which occurred Tuesday night.

A broadcast communiqué also said seven enemy planes had been downed in the Suez Canal Zone and two near Cairo.

The Supreme Command said airplanes had raided some areas in Cairo but added that there had been no damage. Civilian observers did not see the Israeli planes.

Bridges across the Nile were under heavy guard, and air-raid warnings sounded periodically through the day.

The Information Department announced that 3,500 Israeli prisoners, including 200 women, were brought to Cairo Wednesday night. The prisoners, arriving at Cairo's railroad station, were met by a shouting, hostile crowd. They were manacled and carried off in prison vans to an undisclosed place.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser received the Soviet Ambassador, Dmitri P. Pozhidayev, and former Premier Saeb Salaam of Lebanon, the Egyptian press service reported. No other details were made public about his actions. Mr. Nasser has made no public appearances since the war began. [The newspaper Al Ahram said Mr. Nasser would address the nation today, The Associated Press reported.]

All outgoing dispatches continue to be censored. Troops with riot batons remain on guard outside the United States Embassy.

Armed troops are stationed on Cairo's bridges, apparently because the authorities fear civil disorder. The troops carry rifles and submachine guns.

Brief shortages of cigarettes were reported yesterday at shops in various parts in Cairo.

No Reaction to U.S. Plan

There was no immediate comment from Egyptian officials about President Johnson's formation of a working group headed by Secretary of State Dean Rusk to "help build a new peace in the Middle East," apparently in part through foreign aid.

There was also no immediate reaction to Israel's announcement that two Israeli freighters were preparing to sail out of the Gulf of Aqaba and would thus demonstrate that the Egyptian blockade there had been broken.

The Cairo radio declared that several Israeli armored columns were "locked in between El Arish and the coast." It added that Israeli armored units had again tried to infiltrate behind El Arish, 300 miles northeast of Cairo, and to surge forward along the coastal line. The Egyptian Air Force destroyed them inside El Arish, the broadcast said.

In a broadcast communiqué, the Egyptian headquarters said:

"Our planes chased the enemy, showering them with a stream of rockets and inflicting heavy damages on them."

Another military communiqué said two Israeli Mirages had been shot down in a dogfight over the Sinai Peninsula. The communiqué said one Egyptian warplane had failed to return to its base after the encounter.

The radio asserted that three United States planes had been spotted flying southward over the Suez Canal, apparently on reconnaissance. The radio repeatedly stated that yesterday would be decisive in battle.

Many Cairo residents appear to think the retreat of Egyptian troops westward on the Sinai Peninsula is a trick to trap the advancing Israelis.

The broadcast communiqué on the Sinai fighting declared:

"Enemy armed forces, which attempted to infiltrate earlier behind the El Arish position, tried to surge forward on the coastal line in north Sinai, and our air force stopped their progress and destroyed then completely. Our gallant forces are still resisting with matchless courage inside El Arish itself.

"There are now a number of enemy armored columns blocked in between El Arish and the coast. At the same time that this battle was going on at 7:30 A.M., three American planes crossed over the Suez Canal, heading from north to south."

The newspaper Al Ahram asserted that 180,000 Israeli troops had been involved in the fighting and that a flight of Algerian MIG fighter planes had arrived in Egypt to reinforce the Arab forces.

Banks in Cairo remained open, as did most stores, though some had their iron shutters pulled down halfway. Construction work continued.

There was no evidence of disaffection among the people. The radio played a song with a martial chorus of "Strike, strike, strike!"

There were complaints about the bread supply. The loaves are reported to be made from flour of poor quality that is understood to have come from Eastern Europe.

Shortages of beans were also reported. The crop of beans, a staple in the Egyptian diet, was bad this year.

An independent economic analyst in Cairo said the war could have serious consequences on the Egyptian economy.

First, he said, it will reduce revenues from Suez Canal tolls, which are the Egyptians' principal source of foreign exchange. Second, he added, Cairo appears to have lost large quantities of military equipment that could be expensive to replace.

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