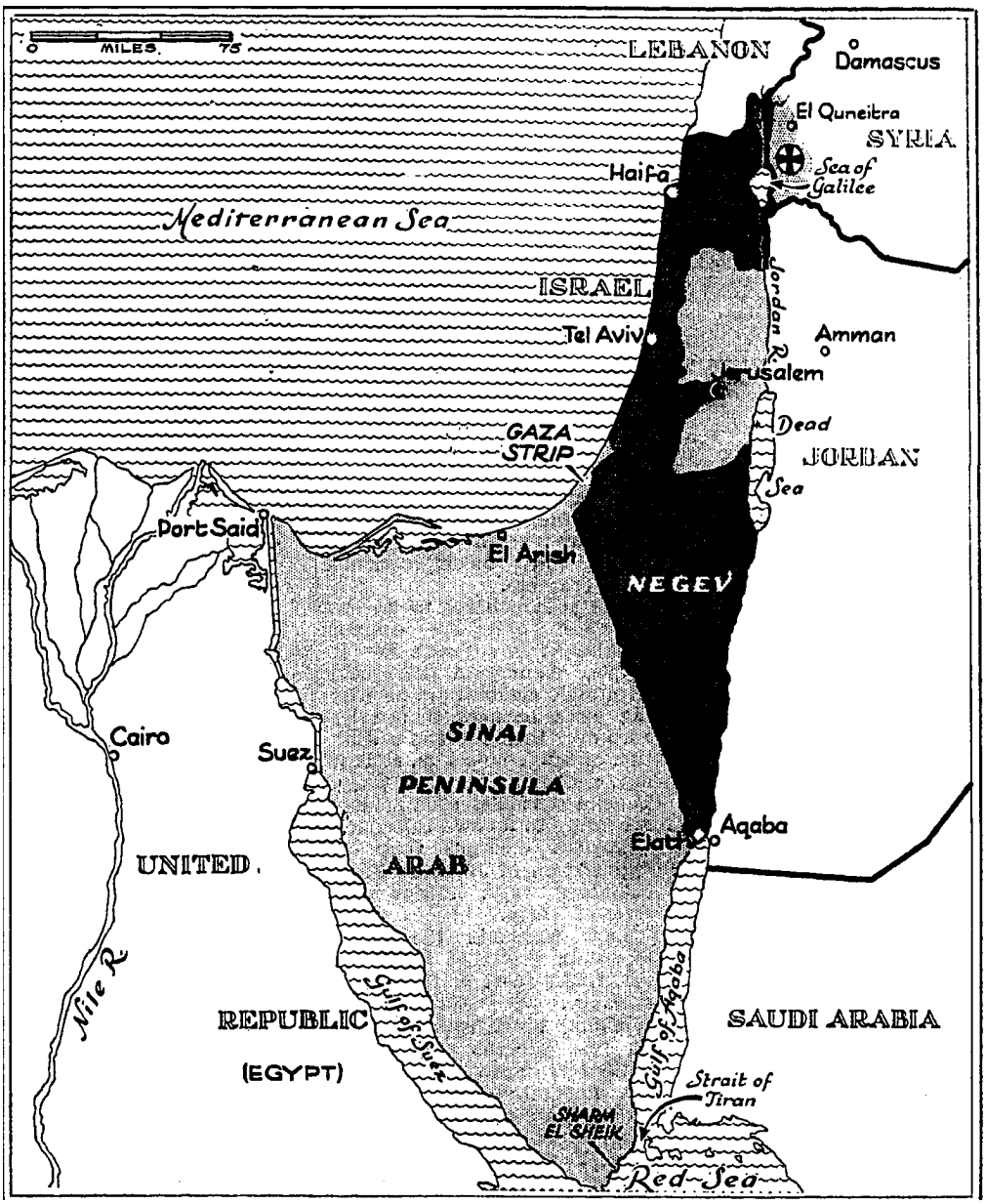
Israel Rules Out Return to Frontiers
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jun 11, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 20
pg. 1



The New York Times June 11, 1967

WAR'S AFTERMATH: Israel said war in the Middle East had wiped out past armistice pacts and indicated borders (dark shading) would have to change. Area overrun by her forces is in light shading. Cease-fire in the Syrian area (cross) was accepted.

Israel Rules Out Return to Frontiers

By United Press International

JERUSALEM, June 10—Israel said today that her victories over Arab forces had wiped out previous armistice agreements and that she would not return to earlier frontiers.

The Information Minister, Yisrael Gailille, said his country "cannot return to the 1949 armistice agreement and boundaries determined by those agreements."

He said armies, tanks and planes of the United Arab Republic, Jordan, Syria and Iraq had nullified the armistice agreements.

"Israel cannot agree to return to the status quo before this happened," Mr. Gailille said.

The Information Minister said his Government had been holding consultations to "assure the victories achieved on the battlefields" by Israeli forces.

Mr. Gailille did not go into detail. Israel already has said she intended to keep all of the city of Jerusalem, previously shared with Jordan. She also may try to keep some Jordanian territory west of the Jordan River. The Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank of the Jordan were captured from Jordanian forces.

Israel has rejected pressure from the Soviet Union to get the Israelis to return to their previous borders. Moscow announced today that it was breaking diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mr. Gailille referred to the

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ISRAEL RULES OUT FRONTIERS OF 1949

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armistice agreements made in 1949, after the Israeli war of independence, and in 1956, following the Suez campaign.

He said Israel could not live with arrangements that were supposed to have served as a preliminary to peace, but that have been stretched out for two decades.

His announcement also seemed to put in doubt any future control of Israeli-Arab frontiers by the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization.

Over-all Settlement Stressed

Special to The New York Times

TEL AVIV, June 10 — A prominent member of Premier Levi Eshkol's Cabinet said last night that Israel would restore conquered territories to her Arab neighbors only within the framework of an over-all settlement.

The speaker, Labor Minister Yigal Allon, said his Government did not expect to keep all its conquests, but would not accept temporary solutions.

He made it clear that armistice agreements such as those signed in 1949 with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon could not be expected to contribute to a satisfactory settlement.

What Israel wants, he said, is a peace treaty and cooperation with her neighbors "that benefits both sides."

Speaking at a public meeting in the Haifa Municipal Theater, Mr. Allon said: "Every territorial settlement must depend on a permanent solution based on each nation's right to existence. Only thus can peace be assured and the cause of future wars eliminated."

U.S. Officials Decline Comment

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 10 — United States officials had no direct comment on Israeli contentions that their victory this week had ended all armistice lines and required the drawing of new frontiers.

The Johnson Administration is holding to its commitment to the "territorial integrity" of all Middle East nations, but has refused to define the meaning of that phrase.

In private discussions, officials here indicate that they would not support any major territorial annexations by Israel but might, under certain circumstances, favor direct Israeli-Arab negotiations to adjust some frontier lines as part of a final peace settlement fixing permanent borders.

There is some sympathy here for the Israeli desire to occupy certain high points in Jordan that command strategic Israeli regions. Officials also favor free Israeli passage through the Gulf of Aqaba and do not want Egyptian forces to reoccupy the heights overlooking the gulf entrance if this were to lead to another blockade.

Greater Security Is Sought

By SETH S. KING

Israel's announcement yesterday that she would not return to the 1949 armistice agreement and its boundaries signaled an attempt to guarantee her security through a system more effective than the United Nations peace-keeping machinery created by that armistice.

Israel's stand recalled her initial toughness at the end of her 100-hour war against Egypt in 1956. At that time she held all of the Sinai Peninsula and insisted at first that the Gaza Strip must become a part of Israel. In the end she returned to the 1949 lines, with the promise of free passage through the Gulf of Aqaba.

It remains to be seen how much of Israel's position is for bargaining and how much of it is a determination to hold territory that would be of greater strategic than economic value.

Last Monday, when the fighting began, Israel's Defense Minister, Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, declared: "We have no aim of territorial conquest. Our sole aim is to bring to nought the attempt of the Arab armies to conquer our country and to destroy the encircling blockade and aggression."

Two days later, General Dayan said Israel would never leave the Old City of Jordanian Jerusalem, "the holiest of our holy places." But he also declared that Israel had no intention of remaining on the Suez Canal, her objective being only to force open the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Strait of Tiran at the gulf's mouth is now occupied by Israel. It could be held indefinitely by a company of Israeli troops.

Legal Status in Doubt

The legal status of Jerusalem and the two segments of Jordan north and south of the city was not fixed by the 1949 armistice. This was simply a recognition of the boundaries as they existed from war and not from the United Nations' partition of British-mandated Palestine.

Jerusalem was to be an international city, administered by the United Nations. Neither Israel nor Jordan had the right, under the partition plan, to divide the city. Israel's armistice boundaries were a third larger than the partition called for, and Jordan's annexing of what remained of Palestine had no legal basis.

Israel's retention of all of Jerusalem and the network of roads around the city would be easy. The strategic value of Jerusalem would be great. And Israel could easily retain some communities, such as Ramallah, Latrun and Bethlehem, to widen the corridors between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The Jordanian bulge south of Jerusalem is largely waterless an area of nomadic Bedouins with the biblical town of Hebron its only sizable community.

But to the north of Jerusalem live more than a million Palestinian Arabs, half of whom fled in 1948 from what is now Israel.

It was clear yesterday that thousands of these Arabs were again fleeing from Israeli troops, who appeared to be encouraging them to go.

The land in this area, particularly the section along Israel's narrow waist, is arable However, its water resources are limited and Israel's own resources are already stretched to the maximum.

But above all these considerations of strategic territory is the question of the refugees. At least 900,000 of them are in the areas Israel has overrun. More than 400,000 others are in the eastern section of Jordan, and in Syria and Lebanon.

This year, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine has budgeted $39-million to feed and educate the refugees and provide health services for them.

Of 430,000 people in the Gaza Strip, roughly the size of Manhattan, 310,000 are refugees. Most of these are unemployed or underemployed and the area has no resources of any value.

After Israel had decided, in 1956, that Gaza was a liability, she suggested that the United Nations take over administration of the area, with Israel providing police and security forces. This was rejected and Israel then withdrew entirely.

Israeli troops could secure all the approaches to her territory from Egypt by garrisoning Egypt's desert strongholds at Rahfa, Abu Agweigila, El Quseima and Kuntilla.

These dominate the three major roads to the Suez Canal. There are few people living in these areas of dunes and rocky hills, and here it would be largely a matter of supplying Israeli garrisons.

Similarly, if Israel held a garrison at El Quneitra, the major road junction 12 miles inside Syria, she would control the 48 miles of border she shares with Syria. Or, if this rocky, sparsely populated area were made a demilitarized zone, under United Nations control, the security of Israel's settlements in the Huleh Valley would be assured, as would Israel's use of Jordan River water.

New Situation Is Stressed

WASHINGTON, June 10 (AP) — Israeli sources said today that negotiations on a peace settlement must start from where the position is "at the moment."

The sources, who declined to be identified, said there was now a new situation and "the clocks cannot be turned back."

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