

CEASE-FIRE IN FORCE; SYRIAN LINE BROKEN

By ZE'EV SCHUL, Jerusalem Post Military Reporter

MESUDAT YESHA, Upper Galilee. — Syrian defence lines east of the Upper reaches of the Jordan and Hula basin were cracked wide open on Friday when units of the defence forces closed in to deal with Syrian artillery positions which had been bombarding settlements in the border valleys almost incessantly for the previous five days. A number of positions, including such well-known names as Darbashiye, Ain Tina, Dardara and Jalabina, were taken in head-on assaults. There is a substantial number of prisoners.

The Army spokesman announced last night that Israel forces were holding the north-south line Massadeh-Kuneitra-Boutmiyeh, which is 20 kilometres east of the international frontier.

The Syrian Army, which has had almost 20 years to dig-in, had built a double line of positions running the entire length of the Golan mountains starting at the foothills of Mount Hermon and ending near Lake Kinneret. The positions were planned, Russian style, as fortifications in depth, providing a maze of communication trenches and gun positions. The lower of these two lines, and the principal source of trouble for Israel, was held by units of the Syrian National Guard. The upper lines were held by regular army units.

Heavy fighting along the entire length of the Syrian frontier broke out at dawn on Friday after the Syrians, in complete disregard of the cease-fire they had agreed to the preceding day, stepped up their artillery fire. Heavy damage was caused all along the front. Gadot, east of Ayelet Hashahar, once again seems to have drawn most of the enemy fire, and is totally wrecked. Settlers in this area have been living in shelters for the past few days.

Actual contact with the Syrian units became unavoidable when it became clear that there was no other way of permanently silencing the Syrian artillery positions — all entrenched on heights well to the rear.

To enable Israel's forces to exploit topographical advantages, the units may have had to operate some kilometres east of the Jordan. At this stage there seems to be no intention of taking Kuneitra or any other Syrian areas beyond what is dictated by tactical needs.

The Syrians are reported to have shown stiff resistance. They gave up only after intensive artillery and Air Force bombardments were followed up by a three-pronged drive of armoured units — operating along different elevations north to south, while other mechanized infantry units closed in from the South.

Fighting continued during the late hours of Friday afternoon. This time the stress was on silencing Syrian artillery positions east and south-east of Lake Kinneret.

The Defence Ministry spokesman, Mr. Moshe Pearlman, said that it is believed there are 600 to 700 Egyptian tanks still in Sinai, of which 200 may still be serviceable.

A revised evaluation of the number of Egyptian soldiers believed to have been in Sinai puts the figure at 150,000, and they are believed to have had between 900 and 1,000 tanks at their disposal. One hundred thousand men belonged to fighting units. They included four infantry divisions, and two armoured divisions, known as the Fourth and the Special Armoured Task Force. Thousands of Egyptian soldiers continued to struggle back on foot to Egypt yesterday, the Defence Forces making no attempt to stop them merely taking away their weapons. Six Egyptian generals have been captured.

Israel has taken possession of 70 of Hussein's 200 tanks. The 60 Pattons and 10 Centurions are in good condition. Of the remaining 130, quite a number have been put out of action.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Announcement of a cease-fire agreement enforced at 6.30 p.m. yesterday between Israel and Syria, to announce in Tel Aviv by the Army spokesman and in New York at the U.N. Security Council. The spokesman said Israel will honour the agreement so long as it is observed by the Syrians.

The cease-fire was arranged between Defence Minister Moshe Dayan and the UNTSO Chief of Staff, Gen. Odd Bull, who received special authority to do so from Secretary-General U Thant. However, the armistice agreements on which the authority of the UNTSO had been based — except that with Lebanon — are considered to be null and void as a result of the acts of war.

Gen. Bull arrived at Mr. Dayan's office in the Kirya in Tel Aviv at 3 p.m., accompanied by a U.N. officer and Sgan-Ahuf Shmuel Gatt, who was Israel's representative on the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission. R.A. Dayan offered Gen. Bull all the installations and equipment he might need in order to carry out his assignment in the Syrian border region.

UPI reported from U.N. Headquarters: — Council President Hans Tabor of Denmark adjourned the meeting, the 14th in two weeks on the Middle East crisis, with a caution to members to stand by for another emergency session if the truce breaks down.

It fell to Mr. Gideon Rafael, Israeli Ambassador, attacked by the Arabs and lambasted by the Soviet Union, to announce the cease-fire agreement to the Council. Mr. Rafael told the Council: "General Dayan stated that Israel accepts any proposal made by General Bull for implementation of a cease-fire and supervision arrangements."

"General Bull asked what time and General Dayan said, 'right here and now'. General Dayan agreed that Israel will accept any hour which General Bull will fix and he could decide the hour on his own."

A few minutes later, Secretary-General U Thant advised the Council officially that Gen. Bull had fixed "16.30 hours Greenwich Mean Time" — (6.30 p.m. Israel time) for the cease-fire to become effective.

Gen. Bull asked Israel and Syria both to select observers to serve on their own sides of the truce line and to appoint liaison officers for duty across the line, presumably with U.N. personnel.

It was an unpredictable windup to a day that began with a 2 a.m. call from the Syrian delegation to advise Mr. Tabor that the situation was rapidly deteriorating, with Israeli planes menacing Damascus and armoured columns driving down the road to the capital through the key town of Kuneitra. This was denied by Israel.

Mr. Tabor consulted most of the 14 other members he could reach and convoked the Council on 4 a.m. The pre-dawn meeting got under way 33 minutes late, with Russia adding to the agenda a call for a cease-fire and withdrawal by Israeli troops from Arab territory.

Word was passed among the diplomats that Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Fedorenko was prepared to keep the Council in session until it voted on a resolution concerning the cease-fire.

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SOVIET BREAK WITH ISRAEL

SHARP regret will be felt among the general public as well as in official circles at yesterday's decision of the Soviet Union to break off its diplomatic ties with this country.

The Soviet Union was among the earliest sponsors of Israel at the time of its establishment, and this is a fact that is always remembered here; and of course perhaps also in the Arab world. It is one reason why we have always wished for closer and better relations with the Russians, quite apart from the fact that so large a proportion of the early settlers came here from Eastern Europe, and that their sympathy has always been with what they saw as a forward-looking government. Add to this the circumstance that one of the few remaining large Jewish communities lives in Russia, and it is clear that this link is particularly important to us and that we hope to see it restored in the not too distant future.

The other side of the coin is the Soviet Union's increasingly close relationship with both Egypt and, more recently, Syria. Some other powers have been sufficiently flexible in their diplomacy to be able to remain on excellent terms with both the Arab State and ourselves: the Soviet Union, on the other hand, allowed its relationship with Israel to shrink and wither almost from the time it began to develop its current relationship with Egypt.

Russia has given close political support to the Arab states, and particularly these two, and has not hesitated even to accept their open hostility towards Israel. This stand caused the Soviet Union to oppose and nullify many U.N. votes on numberless acts of Syrian aggression during the past few years and thereby no doubt tended to encourage such aggression and thereby indirectly also to contribute to the creation of the present conflict.

Israel was never successful in conveying the inherent danger of this attitude to the representatives of the Soviet Union. The far-reaching Soviet acquiescence in the closing of the Straits of Tiran to Israel shipping by Egypt some weeks ago appeared at the time the climax in this one-sided attitude, for the U.S.S.R. threatened military intervention against any outside power or group of powers that might take action to restore freedom of movement through the Straits. How much this attitude contributed to the subsequent explosion and the destruction of Egypt's forces is difficult to judge in retrospect, but it was certainly an important element.

Despite his success in obtaining a vote of public confidence by the simple ruse of a pretended resignation, Nasser is now at a critical point in his career, as a result of the destruction of so large a part of his military forces. He may himself harbour some doubts concerning the ultimate value of Soviet support for his ventures, which has ended in more disastrous defeat, and Israel's greatly increased strength. Perhaps, despite the Soviet Union's rough attitude to Israel, the day will come when the Arab countries will appreciate that the generous supplies of Soviet arms available to them are as dangerous to themselves as they are for us.

U.S. relieving oil shortage in Europe

WASHINGTON (Reuter). — American oil companies were yesterday authorized by the Government to step up oil shipments to Western Europe from the U.S. and the Caribbean to forestall shortages likely because of the Middle East war. The move was made possible by a decision, announced by the Department of the Interior, to treat the Western oil situation as an emergency. The decision, sought by major U.S. companies for some days, enables them to pool resources and round up more ships to carry oil from the Americas to counter the stoppage of oil supplies from several Arab States, especially the key suppliers, Iraq and Kuwait.

Planes arriving here full

LYDDA AIRPORT.—Airplanes have started arriving here filled to capacity and returning largely empty — a complete reversal of the situation of the weeks preceding last Sunday.

Friday's arrivals included hundreds of Israelis, who immediately lined up at a special Army desk to receive their call-up notices on the spot.

The arrivals included a Belair charter flight, and flights of five foreign companies — Swissair, Alitalia, Sabena, BEA and KLM. All foreign airlines are expected to resume their flights today, with the possible exception of one unnamed airline.

Russia cuts ties; sanctions threat

The Soviet Union yesterday announced its intention to break off relations with Israel, accusing this country of failing to observe the cease-fire on the Syrian border. A threat of sanctions was also made should military action not be halted. Israel has expressed the hope that relations will be restored when the Soviet Union shows more appreciation of Israel's problems.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Jerusalem last night that the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Dmitri Chuvakhin, that afternoon called on the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, and presented a Note from his Government announcing its decision to break off diplomatic relations.

Calm view taken here of action

By FRANCIS OFNER

Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Reporter
Political quarters here last night took a comparatively calm view of the Soviet action, pointing out that it appears to be aimed at least as much at Arab ears as at Israel's.

Russia first severed relations with Israel in February 1953, at the time of Stalin's anti-Semitic "doctors' plot," — the pretext being the bomb that was exploded at the Soviet Embassy courtyard. It is recalled that relations were resumed a few months later at Soviet initiative.

Regarding the significance of yesterday's move with respect to the Arab world, it is pointed out here that severing and resuming diplomatic relations is a frequent procedure in the inter-state dialogue among the Arab states.

Concerning the Soviet threat of sanctions, it is pointed out here that Russia has in effect been practising economic sanctions against Israel since 1956, when they stopped buying Israeli citrus and stopped selling us petrol.

FUTURE HOPE

Nevertheless, the hope is expressed here that Moscow will eventually adjust its Middle East policies to the realities of the region. It is considered that the emptiness of the reactionary, aggressive forces of Arab expansionism, as symbolized by Nasser has been exposed. The road is now seen open to a policy in which both the Arab states and Israel can live in peace and prosperity and enjoy the friendship of all major powers, including the Soviet Union.

Israel, it is noted, seeks neither an American nor a Soviet presence in this region, but would like to see the region as an area of cooperation of sovereign and equal states.

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Soviets acting in frustration

By JACK MAURICE

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
PARIS. — The French Government feels the Soviet Union's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Israel confirms its inability to offer the Arabs anything more than verbal support after the setbacks to its diplomacy and military hardware during last week's lightning war. French officials were reluctant yesterday to comment on the fast-changing situation, but expressed the conviction that events fully justified President de Gaulle's refusal to side with either camp in readiness for the inevitable mediation and general Middle East settlement.

Despite the Moscow Communist summit, there is no fear in Paris of new military aid to Egypt since only massive intervention by the Soviet Air Force — unthinkable in the present context of East-West co-existence — could now reverse Israel's victory.

PARLIAMENT DEBATE

Premier Georges Pompidou is now trying to back Israel, in readiness for Thursday's full-dress Parliamentary debate on the Middle East. Jewish-born Maurice Schumann, Minister for Scientific Affairs, was on the verge of resignation in protest against President de Gaulle's policy, but M. Pompidou persuaded him to remain. There is also widespread indignation at the State radio's failure to condemn Egypt, in contrast with the French private networks whose coverage of the war's political and military aspects has been first class.

As peace seemed to be drawing nearer, France's Suez-time Premier, M. Guy Mollet, called on Israelis and Jews to "understand that nothing opposes them fundamentally. They must learn to live side by side and in the near future cooperate."

General Andre Beaufre, who commanded French land forces at Suez in 1956, said: "This 1967 campaign represents a model of military action aimed at creating an accomplished fact before international opinion can intervene. One cannot fail to admire the technical perfection of the campaign, the intelligence of its leaders and their skill in taking full advantage of circumstances as well as the energy and resolution of an entire people at arms roused to affirm its right to life."

Rumania for M.-E. negotiations

VIENNA (AP). — The Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party, in a statement devoid of any accusations against Israel, yesterday called for Israeli-Arab negotiations to ensure and consolidate peace in the Middle East.

The Rumanian statement made no mention of the East European summit meeting in Moscow on Friday nor of the declaration issued condemning Israel.

It said: "The course of events has demonstrated that the use of armed force cannot constitute a means of settlement of controversial problems between states and serves only the aims of imperialism with American imperialism at its head."

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BOAC

resumes normal services today.

Flight BA 317 for London leaving Lod at 5.15 p.m.

Israel Workers —

We are all exhilarated and overwhelmed by the magnitude of Zaha's victory. The entire nation, both at the battle- and home front, displays a supreme sense of self-sacrifice.

The battle still rages. The war which has been forced on us calls for a tremendous financial effort and reorganization of our entire economy.

The Knesset has decided to issue a comprehensive Mivve Bitahon, Defence Loan, for all Israelis and the entire economy.

Israel workers will consider it their privilege to give this Loan their wholehearted support.

The Central Committee has decided to appeal to every worker to purchase 1967 Defence Loan Bonds in the amount of half a month's salary.

Every section of workers in the Histadrut, in the cooperatives, in the working settlements and in the independent sector — will contribute their stipulated share and more.

The proceeds of the Defence Loan will go for financing the war effort.

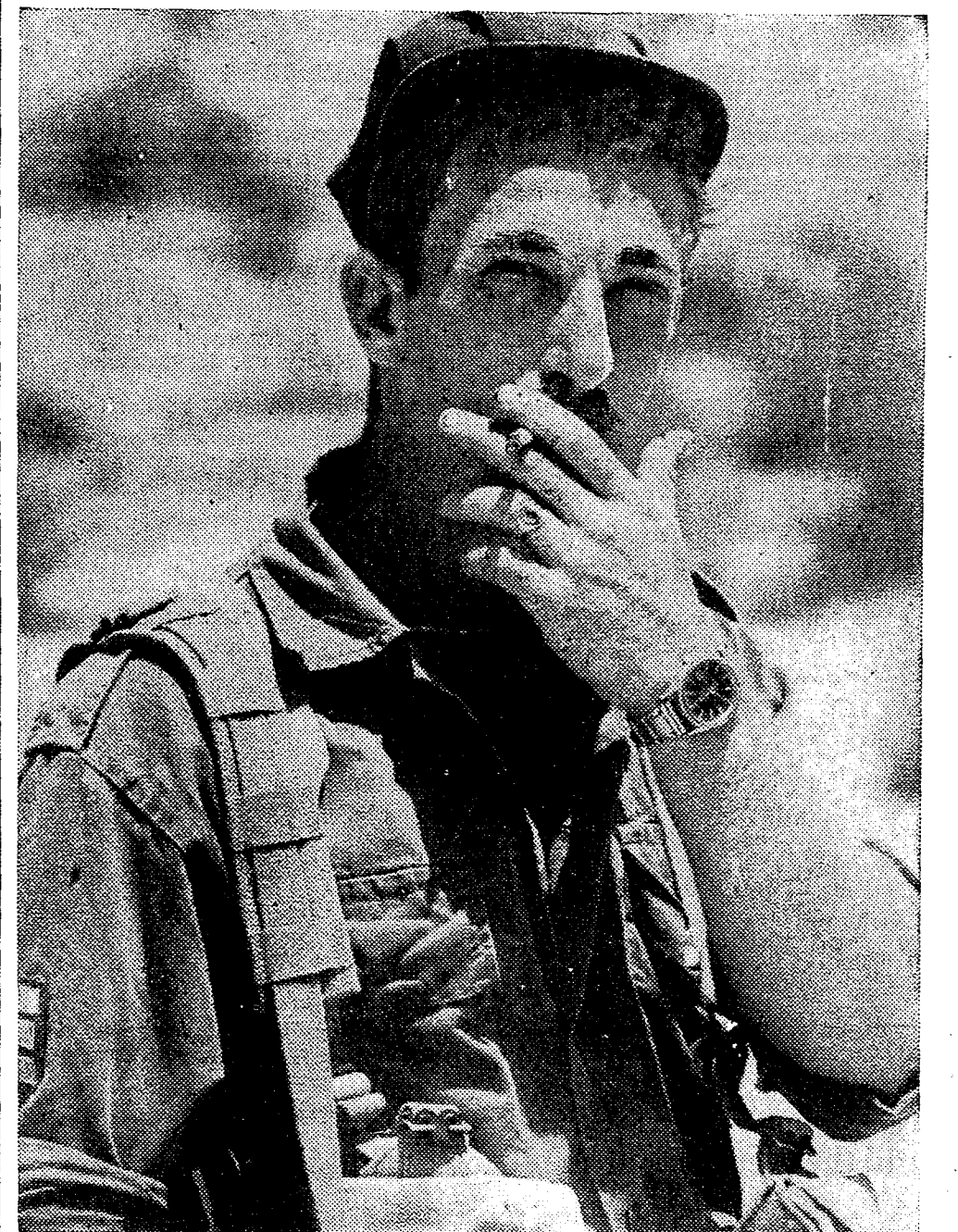
Israel workers will contribute their share willingly by expressing their solidarity with the soldier in the forefront of the battle.

LET'S DO IT TODAY! All of us, workers, workers' committees, institutions, settlements, let's contribute our full share to the financing of the battle for our national existence.

VA'AD HAPOEL

General Federation of Labour in Israel

June 9, 1967.



HE COMES FIRST!

If you find it difficult these days to obtain your favourite DUBEK brand please remember:

Today we must first of all care for our soldiers. They come first.

But the DUBEK factory is making every effort. Soon, we hope, you'll enjoy again the quality, flavour and richness of all

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Dr. Jacobson Adv.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of my husband
Engineer Eliahu Leszczynski ז"ל
The funeral will leave today, Sunday, June 11, 1967, at 3.15 p.m. from the Municipal Funeral Parlour in Rehov Dafna in Tel Aviv, for the Old Cemetery in Rehov Trumpeldor.
Mourned by his wife, Tania Leszczynski and his family, here and abroad.