

DDQC#6 1980

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (Continued)

Joint Chiefs of Staff (continued)

A. [Near East] Middle East Roundup (Week Ending 11 May 1956). Transmittal Memorandum, Adm. Edwin T. Layton, Dep. Dir. for Intelligence, Joint Staff. May 11, 1956. 1 p. Att: Same title [Hammarskjold defines the major problems in the Near East as the Sinai, Suez Canal blockade of Israeli shipping, Jordan River divergence, and the refugee problem (Israel gives the harvesting of Israeli crops by Gaza refugees as the basic reason for shelling of Gaza city); Hammarskjold is pessimistic and prefers US-UK-French and Soviet diplomatic pressures on the Arab states and Israel to the convening of an SC meeting; Israel is receiving additional aircraft from France and is maintaining its armed forces at a high level of mobilization. Jordan is the only Arab state to withdraw its forces from the border; Egypt has received additional bloc aircraft. In Greece the govt. is fighting for its life; the hanging of Cypriots has set off riots and the cabinet is faced with pressures to break relations with the UK. In Iran the elections to the 19th Majlis are proceeding; most new deputies are taking the place of Zahedi adherents and assertive liberals. The Pakistani PM will travel to China at a time when an intense domestic power struggle may unseat him]. Memorandum, Col. Charles E. Phipps, Current Intelligence Unit, Joint Intelligence Group, to Adm. Edwin T. Layton. 4 p. SECRET. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. Declassified Sept. 5, 1978. Released 1979.

B. [Near East] Petroleum and the Middle East Crisis [the closing of the Suez Canal will result in a rise in tanker and petroleum prices, initiation of rationing in Europe, supply of US military in Europe from refineries in the Gulf Coast and Caribbean, requests from Europe for diversion of oil stocks intended for US military in Europe, and a rise in the price and in European purchases of US coal]. Memorandum, DDCM-223-56, Gen. Alfred H. Johnson, Dep. Dir. for Logistics, Joint Staff, to the Chairman, JCS. Nov. 5, 1956. 2 p. CONFIDENTIAL. Declassified Nov. 27, 1978. Released 1979.

*Indexed as Jordan River - Divergence Issue 1956 (80)*



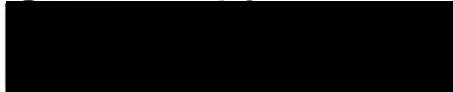
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
 Subject: Middle East Roundup (Week ending 11 May 1956)  
 Enclosure: Copy of Subject Report

Enclosed herewith is the weekly Middle East Roundup which has been prepared for my information. I am forwarding a copy to you as a matter of information and interest.

Very respectfully,



EDWIN T. LAYTON  
 Rear Admiral, USN  
 Deputy Director for Intelligence  
 The Joint Staff

- Copy to:
- J.S.S.C.
  - Director, Joint Staff
  - OSO, OSD
  - Spec Asst to JCS for NSC Affairs
  - Spec Asst to JCS for MDA Affairs
  - Dep Dir for Strat Plans
  - Dep Dir for Log Plans
  - Director, WSEG
  - Director, Communications-Electronics
  - Chief, J.S.A.D.
  - Chairman, J.M.E.P.C.

DECLASSIFIED BY:  
 JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH  
 DATE: 5 Sept 1971

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 TELETYPE UNIT

2325-091 Collection (11 pages 58)

11 May 1956

REMARKS FOR: Admiral Dayton

Subject: Middle East Summary (Week ending 11 May)

Arab-Israeli Situation

1. There has been a marked increase in the number of incidents taking place on the Arab-Israeli border. The Israeli are again accusing Gaza strip refugees of harvesting the Israeli crops just across the border. This "illegal" harvest by the Arabs was given by the Israeli as one of the basic reasons for their shelling the city of Gaza.

2. Mr. Hammarskjold defines the danger areas in the Middle East in his order: El Aqja-Sina; Suez Canal blockade of Israeli shipping; Jordan water problem; and the refugee problem. Hammarskjold was pleased with his temporary success, but is basically pessimistic. He does not care to return to the Middle East, nor does he actually want a Security Council meeting. Hammarskjold believes that the three powers (US-UK-France) and later the USSR, must exert diplomatic pressure on the Arab States and Israel to resolve the problem listed above. Although Mr. Hammarskjold places the Jordan water as the third problem, we believe that, unless the Israeli get concrete evidence of obtaining water soon, they will dig. The time of digging could very possibly be tied to the border situation. Should the border remain relatively quiet, we foresee no digging; upon resumption of frequent border skirmishes, digging will resume.

3. Israel is receiving additional aircraft from France. 18 Mystere IV aircraft have already been delivered, with 5 more due to leave France in a week or two. The Israeli press has announced that France will furnish 82 Mysteres (an inflated figure).

4. Israel is maintaining her armed forces at a high level (110-115,000)-- the only demobilization observed has been in a few second line administrative units.

5. The only Arab State to withdraw troops from the Israeli border was Jordan. Just after Hammarskjold left, Jordan withdrew 10,000 (Arab Legion) of her 30,000 troops on the Israeli border to the west bank of the Jordan.

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6. Some Arab newspapers have launched a bitter attack on U.S. policy of asking Allies to supply arms to Israel in a naive attempt to please the Israelis and fool the Arabs. The press goes on to say that "the Arabs now receiving arms from the USSR will have to hesitation of going to the fountainhead and obtaining arms from the USSR direct." ("Once a friend, always a friend"--Arab proverb)

7. Egypt has also received additional Soviet bloc aircraft. Eleven Il-14's arrived early this week. These aircraft were Egyptian-marked, and presumably Egyptian piloted. All aircraft overflew Greece.

8. Panzer stated that if Israel is supplied with arms, his only alternative was to buy more from the Soviets. While receipt of arms is one thing and operational readiness is another (U.S. applies equally to Egypt and Israel) -- the arming of Israel with counter-purchases by Egypt sets in motion an arms race that can have only one result. We should remember that the Arabs don't have copies of U.S. operational readiness manuals, and will move when they think they are ready. The Egyptian Air Force is reportedly bombing dangerously close to the Egyptian rocket testing area. (Bombing range and rocket range are 3 1/2 miles apart). The Egyptians claim that they are having difficulty with the radar bombing equipment in the Il-28's. It is not known if the problems confronted are caused by personnel or equipment error. This is the first indication that Egyptian Il-28's were equipped with radar bombing equipment.

9. As a by-product of the Jordan-Egyptian military meetings in Cairo last week, King Hussein informed the British that Jordan will soon receive 2 squadrons of jet aircraft, some heavy artillery and a few tanks from Egypt. This equipment--if received--would probably be British arms that Egypt is getting rid of, e.g., selling Vampires to Saudi Arabia.

10. LtCol Nuwar, the current strong man of Jordan (although only Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Arab Legion) continues to consolidate and strengthen his position. By a series of arrests he is gradually neutralizing and obtaining defectors from his opposition. We believe that Nuwar is moving too fast but will probably remain the strong man of Jordan unless/until his opponents show more courage.

#### YUGOSLAVIA

11. Yugoslavia gave the U.S. Government what amounted to an ultimatum the other day. In short, the Jugs demanded more wheat aid, or they would turn to the Soviets. Killen

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(U.K.) countered this demand with a statement that this Yugo attitude was confirmation of the belief of a great many people who felt US-Yugo relations were based exclusively on our continued demands. Furthermore, if this was, in fact, the Yugo attitude, the sooner the U.S. found it out, the better. This isn't all--Yugoslavia is going back on the October 1953 agreement whereby 14 additional A-1A3 personnel could enter Yugoslavia. Visas are being held up and living accommodations are "not available." With Tito soon to visit Moscow, he probably wishes to represent his co-existence with the U.S. as "peaceful, but cautious." ("The Devil's friendship ends at the gallows."--Arab proverb)

#### GREECE

12. In Greece, the government is literally fighting for its life. Prime Minister Theotokis returned from the North Atlantic Council meeting with apparently no new angles on the Cyprus problem. The hanging of the two Cypriots has set off a series of riots that have already injured over 300, with 4 known dead. The Cabinet is faced with uninterrupted pressure from opposition parties to break diplomatic relations with the U.K. To add more oil to the fire, the Greek Foreign Minister has told the British that "to avoid all possible risks, the Greek government desired that neither the British Ambassador nor his staff should attend the ceremonial functions (for which they had received invitations) connected with the visit of the President of the German Republic next week. The British initial reaction was explosive. The British Ambassador is ready to risk break in relations or at least personal recall on this issue. Cooler heads will probably prevail in London. ("He bites his tongue who speaks in haste" -- Arab proverb).

#### IRAN

13. Elections to the 19th Majlis now proceeding rapidly. 98 Deputies out of 136 elected, of whom 20 are not holdovers. Most new Deputies are taking the place of faithful Zahedi adherents and assertive liberals. Result is a weaker Majlis as regards independent action and criticism. Political observers and general public regard this election as the most thoroughly rigged in Iranian history, a mere formality. The Shah will leave for Turkey on 15 May for a ten-day visit.

#### PAKISTAN

14. Pakistani Prime Minister Chaudhri Mohamod Ali's two-week trip to Communist China, scheduled to begin 15 May, coincides with an intense power struggle at home which may necessitate his. Meetings of the provincial assemblies, S

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scheduled for 19 May in East Pakistan and 22 May in East  
Pakistan, may result in a change in the country's leader-  
ship, although this could be delayed until Autumn. All  
appears the most likely casualty of such a change. Most  
likely beneficiary: opposition leader Suhrawardy.  
Both Mirza and the West could find Suhrawardy more  
independent than the Pisco Ambassadors they had to deal with  
in the past.



CHARLES E. FRITZ  
LtCol, USAF  
Current Intelligence Unit

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