

Movement of U.S. Warships Intended To Stop Arab Blockade?

WASHINGTON, Monday.—The American Navy has announced that 12 American warships are leaving for the Mediterranean, reports International News Service from Washington. Although the Navy said that these ships are intended to relieve ships already there, it is believed that they are being sent to the Mediterranean as reinforcements.

In this connection International News Service recalls the United States warning that the Arab blockade would not be respected and that notes of protest were sent by the United States to the Lebanon regarding the government of American Jews who were en route to Haifa.

The commander of the Mediterranean fleet arrived in Washington Monday, and although his trip is considered as a routine matter, International News Service claims that he will participate in the discussions on the Arab blockade.

The ships which are to leave for the Mediterranean include an aircraft carrier capable of accommodating 100 troops, three cruisers, one attack ship and seven destroyers. There are already in that area one cruiser, three cruisers, one attack ship and eight destroyers.

Claim that Jerusalem Plan Miscarried

BRUSSELS, Monday.—Kenneth Bilby, correspondent of the "New York Tribune," who arrived in Cyprus from Jerusalem, says that all synagogues in the Old City have been destroyed and that this destruction might have been forestalled had Jewish military plans miscarried.

As for the Jews, he said, expected no more than a nominal resistance by Arab forces in Jerusalem and a move carried out by Palmach reinforced by Jewish Home Guards. To keep the city self-sufficient, the Jews hoped to be able to cut the road to Jerusalem in a matter of time. Bab El Wad was cleared in a quick thrust, but Arab reinforcements kept Palmach engaged on the road to Jerusalem and the Jews did not open up a major attack on Tel Aviv. Two hundred Palmach men pulled out from Bab El Wad and stormed Zion Gate in a fully executed operation, but Arab reinforcements failed to come up. The Arabs were now in a position to conquer the city from the north. But the Jews did not feel de-

termining, Bilby criticised the Arab propaganda work of the Jews. Arab propaganda is exaggerating Arab victories, but there is no doubt that the Arabs are beating the Jews in the propaganda battle.

Correspondents attached to the Arab Legion receive remarkable facilities, and what is more important, they have excellent cable facilities.

The Jews in Jerusalem assured correspondents that they would have cable and plane facilities, but they broke down and the correspondents remained bottled up without connection with the outer world.

Press relations between the Arab officials and the foreign press in Jerusalem deteriorated badly as a result of the new government's failure to point," alleges Mr. Bilby.

Hospitals Shelled

TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—Arab Legion artillery had been shelling the civilian population in Jerusalem, showing preference for buildings flying the Red Cross flag.

On Tuesday morning the Hadassah Hospital in Rehov Hanevim Street was hit, killing one person. The bombardment was directed every time against the buildings flying the Red Cross flag. The same happened to the Misgav Ladach Hospital in the Old City according to the testimony of the evacuated medical personnel.

More than 1,400 evacuees have been provided with housing and food by a new office for dispossessed persons opened in Jerusalem. A special Synagogue, hospital, old age home, school and children's home have been opened for them.

Egyptians Shunned Clashes With Jewish Infantry Were Poisoned Shells Used?

TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—A Haganah spokesman declared that although serious use of gas has not yet been reported, suspicion exists that the Arab Legion had used poisoned mortar shells. Two cases are at present under medical examination.

Continuing the spokesman said that the seriousness of the Egyptian thrust northwards to Tel Aviv had not been minimised, mainly because of the strength of the Egyptian force, consisting of 4,000 soldiers with all the necessary modern heavy equipment, including plenty of anti-aircraft and long range artillery. He pointed out, however, that the long shoreline of the Egyptian advance was highly vulnerable to Jewish flying columns, who were specially trained for desert warfare. At present they had succeeded in arresting the advance of the Egyptian forces and Cairo had admitted heavy casualties at Isdud.

Usually the Egyptians refuse to engage in infantry clashes in which without exception they had suffered crushing set backs.

The Egyptians prefer using their superiority in long range arms, often causing considerable destruction to civilian houses and property in isolated Jewish settlements in the Negev which nevertheless hit back. The settlers settled down in trenches when their houses were destroyed.

Minor Nocturne with a dignity and restraint which drew a sustained applause from the appreciative audience.

The last part of the programme was devoted to works by Bartok, Albeniz and Granados, during which Miss Salzman displayed admirably her ability to cope with the music of all countries and all times.

D.K.

Distribution of Portfolios In Israel Cabinet

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—It has been officially announced that the Cabinet which met on Sunday, decided on the distribution of portfolios as follows:

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence: Mr. David Ben Gurion; Interior: Mr. Isaac Gruenbaum; Foreign Affairs: Mr. Moshe Shertok; Finance: Mr. Eliezer Kaplan; Health and Immigration: Mr. Moshe Schapiro; Agriculture: Mr. Aron Zisling; Religious Affairs and Reparation of War Damage: Rabbi Fishman; Police and National Minorities: Mr. Shalom Shitreet; Justice: Dr. Felix Rosenbleuth; Labour and Public Works: Mr. Mordecai Bentov; Communications: Mr. David Remez; Social Assistance: Rabbi I. M. Levin.

Mr. Shertok announced at the meeting about an agreement with the United States on the appointment of diplomatic representatives, having the title of a special envoy.

PNINA SALZMAN—A MATURE ARTIST

PNINA SALZMAN was a superb artist when she last visited this country. Then critics occasionally complained of what they called "a certain lack of maturity." Whether or not it was true then, the same can certainly not be said to-day. I was particularly struck by the mellow technique of Pnina, and by the ease and grace with which she performed the incredibly difficult passages in the Liszt B Minor Sonata. This sonata is not purely a technical test, and has a moving theme which maintains a unity throughout.

Among the varied items on the programme was a short composition by Ben Haim, a modern composer now living in Eretz Israel. This piece was played with a subtlety which brought out the strange mixture of east and west. It is modern in essence, but has some distinct oriental melodies interwoven among the disturbing chords. I look forward keenly to hearing further works by Ben Haim played by Pnina.

The danger of playing Chopin is that the pianist is often apt to over-emphasise the romanticism of the composer. Pnina was aware of all the pitfalls and evaded any shade of sentimentality. She played the C (Continued at foot of preceding col.)

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