

Zionists Here Pledge Fight; Arabs Hold Partition Dead

Bewilderment Follows Austin's Palestine Bombshell—U. S. Said to Have Notified Mid-East Spokesmen in Advance

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., March 19.—Shock was the reaction and gloom the mood at the United Nations today after the announcement by the United States of its abandonment of the Palestine partition plan.

Zionist leaders seemed stunned; some seemed near tears. A little later they said grimly that the Jews of Palestine would stand and fight for partition, but beneath the surface there may have been fear that the Zionist forces were not strong enough to hold up under the combined weight of Arab attack and the possibility that the United Nations might drop partition formally.

The Arabs indicated openly that they thought partition was dead and the victory theirs. For the record, Arab spokesmen found fault with the United States proposal of trusteeship, but it was reported that they had been informed of the United States plan in advance and had indicated approval.

Non-Zionist and non-Arab circles said that the United States move was a sign that the partition project had been caught in the tension between this country and the Soviet Union and had been crushed. One observer, who has followed the diplomatic maneuvers of the United Nations since its earliest days, said it meant that the United States felt that every action of this country in the foreign field must be integrated in the general picture of preparedness.

In the corridors the general reaction was that everyone "could have predicted it—it's all been clear for days." However, when the announcement was made that the United States favored a special session of the General Assembly to reconsider partition, there was pin-drop silence and bewilderment.

The first word that something was brewing came in the morning

Continued on Page 3, Column 4

ZIONISTS HERE SAY THEY WILL FIGHT

Continued From Page 1

session of the Security Council, when it was learned that Warren R. Austin of the United States had asked for a meeting of the Big Five after adjournment and before the afternoon meeting. The atmosphere of waiting mounted when it was rumored and confirmed that the United Kingdom had special Foreign Office delegates here and would attend the Big Five session.

Mr. Austin told his Big Five colleagues the news at a meeting in the offices of Secretary General Trygve Lie. The announcement to the press came at a record-size press conference. First, the United Nations Press Division gave a briefing on the closed Big Five meeting and then a spokesman who had flown up from Washington took over for the United States delegation. When he was finished, the newsmen made a dash for the phones.

Commission's End Expected

Mr. Austin made the official statement a half-hour later before the Security Council. There were many empty seats in the chamber but among the spectators were members of the Palestine Commission, which is slated for suspension under the new United States plan.

Commission members said later that they would carry on their duties until specifically ordered not to do so by the Security Council. The advance guard of the commission, now in Jerusalem, will stay on for the time being.

When the Council adjourned, delegates remained in the lounge, talking things over. Few would comment for the record, but there was agreement that the latest development in the stormy case had brought the United Nations to another crossroads.

The New York Times

Published: March 20, 1948

Copyright © The New York Times