

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE Cairo Preparing for War

BY ARTHUR MARKOWITZ

JERUSALEM (WNS) - Israel has officially noted that Egyptian President Nasser's declaration that the ceasefire on the Suez Canal is dead that his nation has regained its military stength and was passing to "the stage of lfberation" in which "we shall fight for the recovery of our lands" was confirmation that Cairo was preparing for war, not peace, in the Mideast.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, in giving Israel's official reaction to Mr. Nasser's remarks, said that the world must accept at face value the "path of war" chosen by Egyptian leaders as the nation's policy since the Six-Day War.

In his speech before the congress of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political organization, Mr. Nasser said that the fighting in July marked "the beginning of a new stage" in the confrontation with Israel. He said it was not only "our right but our duty to fight to regain the occupied lands and evict the Israeli forces' and the entire Arab World was "determined to fight for liberation and we are able to fight for liberation."

The Egyptian leader asserted that the Arab situation was "different" from that of 1967 or 1968 but "the path before us in long and difficult" and would involve a "bitter struggle."

The key to victory, he declared, is the national will of the Egyptian people who are the targets of psychological warfare from Israel that "aims to breed fear in our hearts."

Mr. Eban noted that President Nasser's statement that a part of the Egyptian population was 'a victim of Zionist propaganda" and wished to make peace was of the "utmost importance." He said this remark proved that a significent section of Egyptians were against Nasser's warinfluenced policy and wanted peace in the area.

Mr. Eban scored the Soviet Union for its note to Mr. Nasser pledging unreserved political and military support and said this indicated that the Soviets were pursuing a policy of preventing peace in the area rather than their public relations effort to present themselves as seeking a Mideast peace.

Mr. Nasser attacked the United States for its "full economic, political and military support of Israel" and said such help from Washington and Great Britain enabled Israel to "pursue her alms of conceit." American aid to Israle meant that Washington has turned her back on a pledge made before the 1967 war that it would stand by the "victims of aggression," he said.

Israeli officials indicated that Mr. Nasser again seems to be a victim of misinformation from military leaders, both as regards his nation's ability to wage war and the "successes" of recent air and land battles between Israeli and Egyptian forces. They feared that the Egyptian leader might again be a prisoner of his public statements which could bring him to a point of no return where once more, as in June 1967, he would be compelled to fight. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told newsmen that while he believed a major war would not break out in the near future, Mr. Nasser's remarks should be taken at face value and "the conclusion we should draw is that the Egyptians may renew the war and bomb even Tel Aviv."



Minister-without-Portfolio, Menehem Beigin said the speech meant that the Egyptian armed forces had been "given a free hand" to attack Israel. He said Israel must disregard suggestions that such speeches were designed solely for internal propaganda purposes.

Reports from Beirut, Lebanon, indicated that Arab observers expect another conference of Arab leaders to shortly be called to plan the next stage in the confrontation with Israel. They noted that Mr. Nasser said efforts should be made to strengthen all fronts and that the "completely" changed situation since June, 1967 and the last major Arab meeting in August, 1967, requires a toplevel gathering.

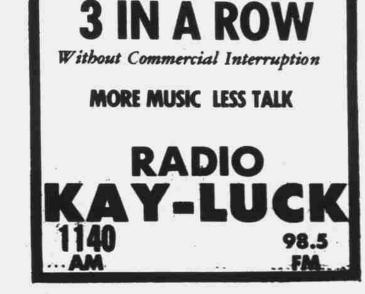
The Egyptian leader's remarks were viewed by Arabs as indicating his conviction that efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Mideast conflict have failed and only military might can regain the Arab lands.

It was noted that the "battle of liberation" cited by Mr. Nasser involved more than the Sinai Peninsula. "We mean all Arab lands, and Jerusalem first," Mr. Nasser said, "Jerusalem comes in the forefront of the lands we shall liberate."





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