

Israel Up-to-Date

Mohammed Hassanain Haikal, editor of the semi-official Cairo daily 'Al-Ahram,' said: "Israel is an historical mistake and cannot exist for any long-range period. The meaning of her continued existence would be that the Arabs are worth nothing." The USSR's military installations and personnel had changed the local character of the conflict with Israel and turned it into a world problem of war and peace. The agreement was meant "to deepen the commitment of the Soviet Union" towards Egypt and aid the Egyptian army to prepare for "the decisive battle against Israel."

The "New York Times" reported from Washington on July 12 that the Soviet Union had provided Syria and Egypt with an increased supply of up-to-date aircraft during the last several months. The report stated that American intelligence sources considered that the shipments were creating a new military situation in the Middle East.

According to the report, Washington sources said that during the past three months Syria received 21 new MIG-21's, apparently of the "Foxbat" class; 9 older model MIG-17's, 5 Sukhoi-7 fighter bombers and 22 M-8 troop-carrier helicopters. The advanced nature of the MIG-21 planes and the first shipment of large helicopters suggest that they are the product of the military treaty signed with the Soviet Union last February. Since last September Egypt has received almost 100 MIG-21's, 8 of which alone arrived in June.

The sources emphasized that, from the end of the Six Day War until the middle of 1970, the Egyptians had received only 90 MIG-21's. The report quoted military analysis as saying that the supply of large troop-carrying helicopters indicated a Soviet decision to give the armies of the two countries a high degree of mobility.

The "Daily Telegraph" of London reported on July 9 that Egyptian intellectuals and professionals had established a "liberation front" to oppose the growing Soviet presence in Egypt. The organization, founded in Alexandria and with chapters in Paris and other European capitals, has called for harrassment of the 20,000 Soviet technicians now in Egypt. One Geneva businessman, a former Egyptian government official, called the recently signed Soviet-Egyptian treaty more humiliating than the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian protectorate agreement.

In a joint communique published on July 3 Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and Egypt expressed agreement that a partial settle-

ment could come only within the framework of an overall Middle East accord that included complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of "the rights of the Palestinian people."

On July 4 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat called for Arab unity in the forthcoming "decisive battle against Israel." In his statement, made at a reception for the new Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, Major General Ali al-Ha'iri, Sadat said Egypt would not give up "one inch of Arab soil" and would not bargain over the "rights of the Palestinian people."

The Israeli Justice Minister, Ya'acov Shimshon Shapira, said on June 29 that he had submitted to the Knesset a bill providing compensation to all Arab residents of Jerusalem who had owned real estate within Israel and abandoned it in 1948.

Since July 2, Arab residents of the West Bank have been able to visit Israel without having to obtain individual permits. This announcement was made by Brigadier General Shlomo Gazit, coordinator of activities in the Administered Territories, who added that the move bore no political implications.

Israeli newspapers reported that over 5,000 Arabs from Tulkarm, Nablus and Hebron visited the beach at Netanya on July 3, the first weekend following the new arrangement.

On July 7 -- the day the Palestinian National Council began its deliberations in Cairo -- Fidayun launched four Katyusha rockets against Petah Tiqva, in central Israel. The rockets hit a hospital for the aged, killing three old women, and a six year old girl. This act was described by "Al-Ahram," the semi-official Egyptian newspaper, as "the most daring act of bravery so far carried out."

Jordanian citizens interviewed by West German television in a film broadcast on July 7 expressed opposition to the Fidayun forces operating in the northern part of the country.

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