

Syria Asks Sanctions Against Israel in U.N., Charges 'Act of War'



Herald Tribune photo by Ira Rosenberg

Syrian delegate Ahmed Shukairy at the Security Council meeting yesterday.

Economic Ban Asked On Israel EbanReply Calls Raid Defensive

By Arch Parsons Jr.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 16—Syria demanded today that the U. N. apply economic sanctions against Israel and questioned Israel's fitness for continued membership in the world organization.

Such U. N. sanctions could cut off financial aid, shipments of vital goods and economic assistance.

Syrian delegate Ahmed Shukairy set forth his government's position in the U. N. Security Council as the Council began a formal hearing on the recent Israeli attack on Syrian outposts in the Sea of Galilee area of Palestine. Some forty Syrians were slain in the raid and thirty more were captured. Mr. Shukairy described the attack as "an act of war."

Says Issue Is War

"The issue is therefore clear," he said. "It is war or no war and it is Israel's conduct that will finally decide the issue and finally answer the question."

Israeli delegate Abba S. Eban responded by describing the raid as a "defensive reaction" against Syria's "implacable hostility" and "continued harassment" since the Israeli-Syrian Armistice Agreement was signed in 1949. "As long as Arab policy is directed at the disruption of Israeli life," he said, "Israeli policy must be directed, in part at least, at preventing this disruption."

Mr. Eban declared that yesterday's personal letter from Egyptian Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser to U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, threatening all-out war with Israel if there are any further "aggressive" Israeli attacks against the Arabs, was "sinister and illicit." The Israeli diplomat said he was "instructed" by his government to say that the letter was "reminiscent" of a letter in 1948 from the Arab League to the U. N. which "heralded" the Palestine War.

Question for Council

But it was apparent in the Council today that the tide of opinion was running strongly against the Israeli attack on Syria and it seemed certain that the question the Council will have to decide is not that Israel was wrong, but what to do about it.

Nearly every delegate on the Council made clear his opposition to Israel's resort to force, expressed "regret" for the incident and extended sympathy to the United Nations.

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Syria for the loss of life involved.

It was decided, however, to wait for a complete report on the raid from Gen. E. I. M. Burns, chief of staff of the U. N. Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, to arrive in New York before taking specific action. After Mr. Hammarskjöld informed the Council that the report probably will arrive early next week, the Council decided to adjourn and expects to meet again on the question next Thursday.

Lodge Is 'Shocked'

Henry Cabot Lodge, jr., chief of the United States delegation to the U. N., reflected the general attitude today by expressing "shock" at the Israeli attack and by recalling an appeal by President Eisenhower for a policy of "restraint" in the Middle East "regardless of whatever the provocations to fight may be."

It is considered likely that the Council's problem will be to find some middle ground between the condemnations that it has issued in the past against Israel for such incidents and the extreme actions demanded today by Syria. The major Western powers are expected to try to reach a solution of this problem in the form of a draft resolution within the next week.