



Jordanian Refugees Evacuated; Fighting Levels Off In Capital

The United States and Britain Thursday began evacuating their national and other civilians trapped in Jordan during eight days of civil war. Refugees arriving in Beirut said their flight was delayed by mortar and rocket fire near the Amman airport.

The United States chartered a Lebanese Middle East Airline jet liner for a civilian airlift to avoid Soviet and Arab charges of "military intervention" in the fighting in which thousands of Arab civilians, soldiers and guerrillas have been reported killed and wounded and thousands more threatened by famine and disease.

In Cairo, the Middle East News Agency

Agency reported that the Premier of Jordan's military government, Brig. Mohammed Daoud, had resigned and was missing from his hotel in the Egyptian capital, where he had gone for an Arab summit meeting on the Jordanian crisis.

The Egyptian agency said a copy of a letter to King Hussein announcing Daoud's resignation was found in the premier's room at the Nile-Hilton.

The chartered Convair 990 arrived in Beirut with about 65 Americans and other refugees. A State Department spokesman in Washington said a Voice of America broadcast repeatedly advising Americans in Amman to report to the Hotel Inter Continental for the flight out

was stopped during the night for security reasons, and that many Americans may not have heard the radio advisories.

Robert J. MacCloskey, the spokesman, said the VOA broadcast would be continued and another plane is standing by in Beirut to fly to Amman, probably on Friday. There are about 400 Americans in Jordan.

Most of the passengers aboard the U.S.-Chartered plane were women and children. Airline sources said they included 12 U.S. Embassy staff and between 15 and 20 other Americans, nine Indians, seven Chinese, six Britons, three Lebanese as well as other nationalities.

Richard Alt, of Fort Wayne, Ind., an embassy attache in Amman who flew out with the first plane load of refugees, said: "They were mortaring around the airport at Amman when we took off. We couldn't see where the fire was coming from but we heard it."

Iana Mardi, daughter of a Jordanian civil servant, said, "We were loaded on the plane and then rocket-firing started. They took us all off and sheltered us until it died down. Then we went aboard again."

Britain flew its evacuees to Cyprus and one pilot reported he heard firing near the airport when he took off.

UPI correspondent David Zenian reported from Amman that some shooting was heard during the day but the capital was quieter than at any time since the war began last Wednesday. Fighting also was reported around Irbid and Rantha in north Jordan and guerrilla chieftain Yasser Arafat accused the Jordanian Army of violating the cease-fire

declared by King Hussein on Wednesday and which he himself repudiated.

Zenian reported fires still burning in Amman, where he said "the specter of starvation, degradation and disease threatens the residents of the city."

Zenian said, "Some men risked getting shot trying to get a loaf of bread." He said anyone seen moving during the curfew hours was in danger of being shot on sight—and even a curtain moving at a window brought army fire.

U.S. Relaxes Alert As Syria Withdraws

WASHINGTON—The United States relaxed its Middle East evacuation alert Thursday, encouraged for the moment by word of King Hussein's battlefield successes and withdrawal of the Syrian tank force from Jordan.

The aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy with 100 planes joined two other U.S. 6th Fleet carriers in the Mediterranean, however, and officials made clear that a

state of military readiness would be maintained until the crisis is resolved.

Administration officials credited the heavy losses inflicted by Hussein's forces and Syrian fear of Israeli intervention for the pullback of the invading force from northern Jordan. The Soviet role, if any, was discounted.

The White House and the State Department stressed that the Jordanian situation was still confused and uncertain. But the pressure obviously had eased.

The carrier Kennedy will remain in the Mediterranean with the Independence and the Saratoga until further notice, the Pentagon said. The Kennedy was accompanied by the destroyers Belknap and Leahy.

The alert status of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and paratroopers in Germany was unchanged.

U.S. officials played down the Russians' possible role in exerting influence on the Damascus government to pull back armored columns from Jordan.

Congress To Lose Car Rates

WASHINGTON—The Ford Motor Co., prompted by a Senate Ethics Committee admission to legislators, announced Thursday it is abandoning its practice of leasing Lincoln Continentals and other luxury model cars to favored members of Congress at heavily discounted rates.

The practice was first disclosed by United Press International Aug. 3. It was learned that 16 House members and at least 24 senators, including some sitting on committees dealing directly with legislation affecting the automobile industry, leased cars from Ford and Chrysler at cut rates.

Ford said that starting with the current 1971 model year, committee chairmen and ranking minority members would be offered the cars at regular commercial rates in the District of Columbia—\$3,600 a year or \$2,800 for a two-year lease.

Favored legislators had been able to rent Continentals for only \$750 a year, with maintenance and many other expenses paid by Ford.

Following the UPI disclosure, the Senate Ethics Committee advised senators to turn in discount lease cars before the 1971 model year began.

Up 11 Percent

Crime Rate Rises

WASHINGTON—Attorney General John N. Mitchell announced Thursday that serious crime in the nation climbed 11 per cent in the first half of 1970 over the first six months of last year.

"None of us in law enforcement can take any comfort from these figures until we can report a reduction in the total number of crimes," he said in a brief announcement in the six-month FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

The Justice Department previously had reported an encouraging drop in the rate of increase in crime since President Nixon took office. The latest report

showed the crime rate was 2 per cent higher than the first half of 1969.

Earlier the department said the rate of increase in 1969 over 1968 had jumped only 12 per cent compared with 17 per cent during the last year of the Johnson administration.

Crime rose 13 per cent during the first quarter of 1970 over the same period in 1969, but the department took comfort in the fact the rate of increase of violent crime had slowed by 7 per cent in the major cities and 3 per cent in the country as a whole.

This time about all Mitchell could find encouraging was that "the number of murders and rapes in the District of Columbia during the first half of 1970 is actually less than in the same period in 1969."

"This is in sharp contrast to a year ago, when murders in the district had increased by 42 per cent and rapes had increased by 50 per cent over the year before," he said, commenting on what President Nixon called the "crime capital of the world" in his presidential campaign.

The six-month figures released by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover Thursday showed that violent crime was up 10 per cent and property crime up 12 per cent nationwide for an over-all boost of 11 per cent.

Power Deficit Eases

The Eastern seaboard power shortage eased Thursday, although voltage rationing remained in effect in the Middle Atlantic states and consumers continued to use electricity sparingly.

Five per cent cuts in voltage were the rule throughout the affected area which reached from upstate New York to the Carolinas and into western Pennsylvania.

An unseasonable heat wave which soared into the 90s Tuesday and Wednesday moderated slightly, reducing the power drain of air conditioners, but the weather bureau said the end of the scorching was not yet in sight. Temperatures of 85 to 90 were predicted through Friday.

Power purchases from New England and the Midwest bolstered reserves in the needy power pools. Voluntary cutbacks

by industrial commercial and home users were reported throughout the area and won praise from federal officials.

George A. Lincoln, director of President Nixon's Office of Preparedness, said the "outstanding cooperation" of the public had prevented the worst power crisis in four years from deteriorating into a black out situation such as that experienced in the Northeast in 1965.

Power was restored to several New York City neighborhoods which were selectively blacked out Wednesday and the five per cent voltage cut was imposed instead of the eight per cent required on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In Washington, D.C., endless corridors in five congressional office buildings were darkened, but tunnels and subway routes between buildings were dimly lit and the congressional train was still working.

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