

National Newsletter: Emergency Edition,  
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236



NATIONAL

# News-Letter

EMERGENCY  
EDITION

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"The assertion of truth, the unveiling of illusion, the dissipation of hate, the enlargement and instruction of men's hearts and minds."  
- The late Lord Keynes.

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## ONE SURPRISE AFTER ANOTHER

Dear Member: The British government now controlling our affairs has several qualities of which one is an unlimited capacity for being surprised.

It was surprised by the Mau Mau in Kenya; it was surprised when the Russians adopted the rather obvious policy of supplying arms and assistance to Arab states who made no secret of their hostility towards the western powers in general and Israel in particular; it was surprised by the no-omnic crisis in Britain; surprise again filled its collective mind when the Enosis movement in Cyprus became a serious affair and lastly there was the surprise of General Glubb's sudden arrival in London.

A committee of Privy Councillors have reported on our security arrangements. The same gentlemen should be asked to examine our Intelligence set-up. If this were done the probabilities are that we should discover (if the report were ever published) that the information gets to London but that Ministers cannot find time to sit back and draw the appropriate conclusions. But even if they were able to do this the result of such mental exercise would be useless because the conclusions would have to be related to something which does not exist which is - a policy. (See Supplement)

At this time in our history there are two possible British policies in the field of foreign affairs; two policies each of which would provide a rational approach to the great problem of our times which is how to win the cold war. Of the two policies, one would be better than the other but it seems to be unattainable at the moment. This is the



policy of the common front; the other is a purely British policy. It could be, and as readers of this correspondence know, I have for years argued that it should be, British foreign policy to create a united free world using devices such as United Europe and the North Atlantic community idea in order that something resembling a free world government would come into being and act as one unit. This is the kind of thing Field Marshal Montgomery is always asking for in the field of defence; it is the kind of western unity which would be created - if time permitted - in the event of a world war.

But, at this time all such ideas are utopian. National sovereignty is so firmly entrenched that only a tremendous catastrophe would force the free nations together and then it would be too late.

The common front is a desirable ideal but events are moving too fast to allow us to wait the decades needed for its achievement. The second best plan is a British policy which means that, having decided what we have the strength to do, we must take such action as will safeguard vital British interests.

It is the kind of policy the Americans have adopted in the Far East. What is the vital British interest at this moment? The answer: Middle East oil. Without that oil our whole economy would crash to the ground. That oil comes from areas menaced by our enemies and is transported through the Suez Canal which is at the mercy of the Egyptians.

The Baghdad Pact (a flimsy affair) is designed to protect the oil lands against Russian aggression. That is a secondary risk and would lead to a world war. The immediate danger lies in the possibility that Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria will get control of the Middle East and the next "surprise" will be the disappearance of Nuri es-said and the adherence of Iraq to the enemy camp. Then, the Sheikdoms on the Persian gulf such as Kuwait will be vulnerable edgings on a hostile Arab world.

The Arab states are held together by two forces: (a) hatred of Israel (b) nationalism expressed in hostility to the west. All these Arab states are corrupt, unstable, undemocratic and completely untrustworthy. They have the oil, or control its passage from the Middle East to Europe, and they intend to blackmail us to the limit.

There is only one argument that makes sense to them and that is armed force.

But there is Israel, and this small tough and genuinely democratic state which has the same philosophy of life as the western world is of vital importance to the west. It occupies in the Middle East a position as significant as that of west Berlin in Europe.

The continued existence of Israel is essential not only for moral reasons, but as a strictly British interest.

"What about the Tripartite Agreement?" That is exactly what the Israelis ask. What does it mean? The French are in no position to do anything except blame the Americans and ourselves for the mess in N.Africa. The Americans are obsessed with their Presidential elections although their decision to send a brigade of Marines to the Mediterranean is very useful.

Moreover Israel is so small that a determined attack upon her from Syria in the North, Jordan in the East and Egypt in the South might well over-run the country in 48 hours whilst the Tripartite powers were still talking.

In these circumstances I wish H.M.G. would immediately negotiate a defensive treaty with Israel (we already have one with Jordan) in which we would have the use of the port of Haifa and a base in the Negev. We should then station at least one division in Israel, and if necessary take away for this purpose one of the divisions now in Germany. At the same time we should concentrate an air striking force in Cyprus. I am convinced that action of this nature would have an immediate and stabilizing effect upon the whole Middle East area, and with our forces based on Cyprus and Israel, we should be in a position to say to the Arab states: "Israel is not expendable, so let us get down to the long term problems of solving the refugee question and working out a permanent settlement." I take it for granted that we should keep our American friends informed of our intentions and accept with pleasure any co-operation on their part.

But the important consideration at this critical moment is to stop drifting, stop being surprised and give Cairo and Moscow a surprise by having a British policy in the Middle East which is morally sound and realistically within our capacity to carry out.

It is within the framework of this policy of a defensive pact with Israel that one must consider the Cyprus question. The deportation of prelates who, to put it mildly, sanctified terrorism will show whether, as I believe to be the case, there are responsible Cypriots who, now that the



all powerful Church has been shown that it is not immune from the law, will have the courage to accept the wide measure of self government offered to them. What we have offered is the extreme limit of what the Turks will accept.

ALGERIA: The gravity of the situation is illustrated by the following information received last week. Large areas are now completely under the control of the rebels who call themselves the Liberation Front. They collect taxes, operate courts of justice whose penalties are: fines; flogging; mutilation; death. The local French administration operated by Arabs, except at the highest level, has disappeared over large areas. The officials have either resigned or been murdered. Telephone and telegraphic communication is faltering to a standstill. Communications between sea-ports is only safe by ship. The French government claim that one of their difficulties is that there is no recognizable body or person with whom they can negotiate as representative of the Liberation movement.

This is hard to accept in view of the widespread evidence (of which it has only been possible to print small selection in this N/L) that an astonishingly effective rebel organization is now in de facto control of an ever increasing area of Algeria. It looks as if in the very near future the writ of France will be completely dead outside the large towns.

*yours sincerely*

*Stephen King-Hall*

*P.S. No sign of any let up in the printing dispute.*

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