

Middle East: Turkish-Syrian Clash; Other Developments

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Turkish border gendarmes and Syrian police exchanged gunfire for nearly an hour in the Nizip-Jerablus area October 8. The incident, said to have followed a series of border clashes resulting from Syrian smuggling, reportedly began when Syrian police stopped Turkish workmen in a free zone near the border and wounded one man when the Turks fled toward Turkish territory. Acting Syrian Foreign Minister Khalil Kallas protested the incident October 8. Syrian Foreign Minister Salah el-Bitar protested to UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold October 8 against the alleged threat of Turkish troops massed on Syria's border. [See 1957 [Middle East: Bulganin Warns Turkey; Other Developments](#)]

Menderes-Bulganin Note

Turkish Premier Adnan Menderes September 30 denied Soviet Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin's charge that Turkey had planned aggression against Syria. Menderes' reply, contained in a letter to Bulganin made public October 5, charged Syria with "arming itself speedily far beyond its logical defensive needs," "perhaps" with an eye to being "turned into an armament depot eventually to be used by others." Menderes urged that Bulganin consider "discontinuance of your policy pursued in the Middle East and especially in Syria." [See 1957 [Middle East: Bulganin Warns Turkey; Other Developments](#)]

Turks Put on Guard

Soviet Communist Party First Secretary Nikita S. Khrushchev, in remarks at an East German reception in Moscow October 7, observed that Turkish leaders "have concentrated so many Turkish forces against Syria that they have left their frontiers with us almost bare." Khrushchev advised the Turks to "have a good think about this. When the cannons start to shoot and the rockets to fly, it may be too late." [See 1957 [Middle East: Saud Pledges Syrian Aid; Other Developments](#); 1957 [Middle East: Bulganin Warns Turkey; Other Developments](#)]

Syria Charges U.S. Threats

Syrian Foreign Minister Bitar, addressing the UN General Assembly in New York October 7, charged the U.S. with "acts of provocation, military demonstration, the massing of forces on our frontiers and threats directed against Syria." Bitar cited "a 6th Fleet patrolling within sight of our coast." He said that Syria had sought Soviet-bloc arms only to offset "the great quantities of arms given to Israel from the Western powers." [See 1957 [Middle East: Saud Pledges Syrian Aid; Other Developments](#); 1957 [Middle East: Jordan Gets U.S. Arms; Other Developments](#)]

U.S. Ambassador-to-UN Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., commenting on Bitar's remarks October 7, recalled the U.S.' "leadership in opposition to the invasion of Egypt" by Britain, France and Israel in 1956 [See 1956 [Middle East: UN Truce Plea Accepted; Other Developments](#)]. Lodge said this U.S. action "makes it inconceivable that we should now be guilty of the colonialist activity" Bitar alleged.

Arabs Defend Syria

Speaking before the General Assembly October 3, Egypt Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi said that Egypt would not permit "that even a finger-tip of Syria be hurt, or a hair of Syria be ruffled, by any aggressor." Fawzi charged that the "clamor" against Syria was part of Western interference that had made the Mid-East "the most distraught and tortured area in the World." [See 1957 [Middle East: Saud Pledges Syrian Aid; Other Developments](#)]

Iraqi UN delegate Moussa al-Shabandar, speaking in the assembly October 3, blamed Israel, rather than communism, "as the real source of the upheavals in the Arab world" [See 1957 [Middle East: Khrushchev Syrian Trip Denied; Other Developments](#)]. Dr. Yusuf Haikal of Jordan told the assembly October 7 that the "roots of basic difficulties...stem from the Zionist movement and the Israeli policy of expansion." [See 1957 [Middle East: Dulles Sees Turkey Menaced; Other Developments](#)]

The Arab states, however, were warned in an assembly speech October 8 by Dr. Charles Malik, Lebanese Foreign Minister, that their problems could not be resolved through "an alliance with communism." Malik said that Lebanon, as an Arab state, would "instantly come to the support of Syria, if she is attacked," but that in East-West matters it "unreservedly ranges itself on the side of the free world." [See 1957 [Middle East: Khrushchev Syrian Trip Denied; Other Developments](#)]

Eisenhower Denies Saudi Rift

Questioned by newsmen on the recent pro-Syrian speech of Saudi Arabian UN delegate Ahmed Shukairy [See 1957 [Middle East: Saud Pledges Syrian Aid; Other Developments](#)], President Eisenhower told newsmen October 3 that he had received October 2 a "message of warm friendship" from King Saud of Saudi Arabia. Asserting that he did "not know what particular thing" inspired Shukairy's speech, the President said that the Syrian situation seemed "to be solidifying" and that the "original alarm of countries like Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq and, to some extent, Saudi Arabia, seems to have been quieted by what they have learned." [See 1957 [Middle East: Jordan Gets U.S. Arms; Other Developments](#)]

(U.S. State Department spokesmen, who had denied any recent exchange of messages between Mr. Eisenhower and King Saud, said October 3 that they had not been informed of the latest messages. They said that U.S. policy toward Syria remained as stated previously.) [See 1957 [Middle East: Jordan Gets U.S. Arms; Other Developments](#); 1957 [Middle East: Khrushchev Syrian Trip Denied; Other Developments](#)]

UN Refugee Aid Pledged

21 UN members and Switzerland pledged a total of \$28,734,000 toward 1958 UN programs for Arab refugees at a General Assembly fund-raising session in New York October 4. The pledges, including the U.S.' \$21.5 million and Britain's \$2.7 million, followed an appeal for \$48.7 million for Arab refugees made by Director-General Henry R. Labouisse of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. 11 UN members and Switzerland pledged an additional \$3.2 million (U.S. pledge: \$2,233,000) October 4 for the UN Refugee Fund, used largely to aid European refugees. Yugoslavia, the only Communist state to pledge aid, gave \$40,000 for UN-RWA. [See 1957 [Israel and Egypt: UNEF Enters Gaza; Other Developments](#); 1957 [Hungary: News in Brief](#)]

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