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Middle East: Yemen Peace Agreement

UN Secretary General U Thant announced April 30 that the UAR and Saudi Arabia had accepted a UN plan to withdraw their forces from Yemen. Yemen also approved the agreement.

Under the "disengagement" plan: (a) Saudi Arabia was to end all military support to Yemeni tribesmen supporting ousted Imam Mohammad al-Badr in a civil war against the forces of Yemeni Republic President Abdullah al-Salal; (b) the UAR, which was supporting Salal, was to withdraw its troops from Yemen and end its attacks on royalist soldiers and Saudi territory; (c) a 12-mile demilitarized zone was to be established along the Saudi-Yemeni frontier.

Major General Carl Carlsson von Horn, chief of the UN Palestine truce supervisory organization, was ordered to Yemen April 30 to enforce the 3-nation agreement.

The UN peace formula was based on a mission by ex-U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who had visited Saudi Arabia in March and the UAR in April as a special envoy of President Kennedy. Bunker had conferred in Cairo April 1-2 with UAR President Nasser on withdrawing his forces from Yemen. Bunker returned from his mission April 11 and presented his recommendations to Thant April 12.

UN Undersecretary Ralph Bunche, on a "fact-finding" mission for Thant in Yemen in March, conferred with President Salal, witnessed a demonstration charging Britain with "aggression of Yemen airspace" and inspected the fighting front at Marib March 3. Sana radio quoted Bunche as telling 1,000 welcoming tribesmen that "if Britain continues in her aggression on Yemen then the UN must stand by you." On his return to Sana, Bunche conferred with Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, deputy commander of the UAR armed forces. Bunche flew to Cairo March 5 to confer with President Nasser on withdrawal of UAR troops from Yemen and to win his approval of a UN "presence" in Yemen. Bunche left Cairo for New York March 7.

(Saudi Premier Faisal reportedly had refused to meet Bunche.) [See 1963 [Yemen: UK-Yemen Dispute](#); 1963 [Yemen: UN Sends Bunche](#)]

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