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# Middle East: Riots Renewed in Jordan; Other Developments

- [Anti-Pact Crisis Upsets Cabt](#)
- [El-Rifai Heads New Regime](#)
- [Dulles Protests Anti-U.S. Attacks](#)
- [Jordan Curbs Disorders](#)
- [More British Troops to Area](#)
- [Anglo-U.S. Parley Planned](#)
- [Eden's Regime Under Fire](#)
- [Tito vs. Baghdad Pact](#)

## Anti-Pact Crisis Upsets Cabt

Demonstrations and riots against the Baghdad (METO) Pact, which linked Middle-Eastern states with the Western defense alliance, broke out in Jordan January 7 for the 2d time in 3 weeks [See 1955 [NATO and Mid-East: NATO Sees Soviet Threat; Other Developments](#)]. A stone-throwing mob tried to break into the U.S. Consulate in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem but fled after U.S. Marine guards fired shots in the air. The rioters tore down a U.S. flag in the Consulate garden as they fled. Demonstrators in Amman, Jordanian capital, stormed U.S. technical-aid hq. and burned offices and automobiles January 7; they also attacked the Philadelphia Hotel, used mainly by Westerners. Other demonstrations occurred January 7 in Hebron and Nablus. One person was reported killed in disorders in Arab Jerusalem January 8.

## El-Rifai Heads New Regime

The disorders broke out following the resignation January 7 of caretaker Premier Ibrahim Hashim and reports that the Government had abandoned plans to hold April elections based on the Baghdad Pact issue. (The Jordanian Supreme Council for Interpretation of the Constitution ruled January 4 that dissolution of Parliament December 19 was unconstitutional.) [See 1955 [NATO and Mid-East: NATO Sees Soviet Threat; Other Developments](#)]

Samir el-Rifai, Deputy Premier in Hashim's Cabt., formed a new Cabt. January 9 and declared "that adherence to any new pacts is not the policy of my Government" El-Rifai promised an early message to Parliament explaining "internal and external policies." "We shall continue our endeavors to strengthen cooperation and consolidate our friendship and brotherly relations with the Arab countries," he said. (El-Rifai held the Interior Minister portfolio and Hashim became Dep. Premier and State Minister Other Cabt. members: Justice and Defense--Falah Madadha; Economics--Khalousi el-Kheiri; Trade and Reconstruction--Anistas Hanaiah; Finance--Hashim el-Jayousi; Foreign Affairs--Hussein Fakhri el-Khalidi; Health and Social Affairs--Mustafa Khaleefeh; Posts Telegrams, Civil Aviation and Dep. Minister of Public Works--Saba el-Akashah; Educ. and Agri.--Deifallah Lahmoud. [See 1955 [NATO and Mid-East: NATO Sees Soviet Threat; Other Developments](#)]

## Dulles Protests Anti-U.S. Attacks

U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles personally delivered a protest January 8 to Taysir A. Toukan, Jordanian Charge d'Affaires in Washington, against the "inadequate" protection given American property in Jordan. U.S. Ambassador-to-Jordan Lester De Witt Mallory was instructed to make similar protests to the Jordanian Government in Amman.

## Jordan Curbs Disorders

El-Rifai's Government imposed January 9 a military curfew which restricted Jordanians to their homes and shops except from 3 to 5 p.m. This was extended one hr. January 10. Outside communication with Amman was cut off except for a small amount of tightly censored news. Uncertainty of communications caused the Egyptian Ambassador to fly to Cairo in his own plane January 10 to deliver a Jordanian protest against Egyptian broadcasts blamed for instigating the anti-METO riots. Jordan was understood to have delivered a similar protest against Saudi-Arabian broadcasts. [See 1955 [Middle East: Syria for Israeli Ouster; Other Developments](#)]

## **More British Troops to Area**

Britain announced January 10 that 1,600 paratroopers would be flown January 12 to British Middle East Headquarters on Cyprus "in view of the disturbed position in the Middle East." The troops belonged to the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, which was sent to Cyprus during the Iranian oil crisis in 1951 [See 1951 [Iran: News in Brief](#)]. British officials said the troops were not intended as reinforcements for the present Cyprus garrison of about 12,000 men, who were dealing with terrorist activities in Cyprus, but would be held ready to fly to Middle East trouble spots.

## **Anglo-U.S. Parley Planned**

Evelyn Shuckburgh, Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of Middle Eastern Affairs, left London January 10 for Washington, where he was to hold preparatory talks for the visit later in the month of Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd [See 1955 [Eisenhower Administration: Invites Eden to Washington: Other Developments](#)]. Press reports said the British Government was expected to press the U.S. for (a) joint pressures on Israel and the Arab states to settle their disputes (b) a coordinated Anglo-American economic policy in the Middle East and (c) U.S. pressure on Saudi Arabia to end its alleged disruptive activities. This program was reported to have evolved from meetings January 4-5 between Foreign Secretary Lloyd and 8 British envoys summoned home from Middle Eastern capitals. (The New York Herald Tribune reported January 6 that Britain would propose an Anglo-American version of the Marshall Plan for the Middle East.) The British Government announced January 5 that it would hold a debate on the question of surplus-arms exports when Parliament reconvened as scheduled January 24. [See 1956 [Middle East: Sudan Proclaims Freedom: Other Developments](#)]

(Forces of the British-supported Sultan of Muscat and Oman entered Nizwa, capital of Oman, December 17, 1955 to re-establish the Sultan's rule, it was reported in Bahrein. Nizwa was described as having been the "focus of a conspiracy" against the Sultan. Nizwa lay southeast of the disputed, oil-rich Buraimi Oasis. Britain November 24 described as "unrealistic" a Saudi Arabian suggestion that the Buraimi dispute be referred back to a neutral commission for arbitration.) [See 1955 [World News: Sharett Appeals to Molotov: Other Developments](#)]

## **Eden's Regime Under Fire**

A wave of British press criticism of the Eden Government's general policies--especially on the Middle East and domestic wage-price pressures--was summed up January 5 by the pro-Labor London Daily Mirror (circ. 4.5 million), which said the following terms recently had been applied to the Eden regime by Conservative newspapers: "dithering," "indecision," "mistakes," "half-measures" and "timidity." The Observer (Indiana) said January 8 that "a formidable body of Conservative MPs is determined to try to remove Sir Anthony as head of the Government" But Conservative leaders and some papers rebuked Eden's critics January 10 and Postmaster General Charles Hill dismissed rumors that Eden intended to resign as "supremely idiotic fiction." [See 1955 [Britain: News in Brief](#)]

## **Tito vs. Baghdad Pact**

Yugoslav President Marshal Tito said in an interview published by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug January 7: The Baghdad pact did not "serve the interests" of Middle Eastern peoples; it "disunites them." "I do not think that it (the pact) represents a wall against anyone."

The Tito interview was published as he was returning by sea to Yugoslavia from visits to Ethiopia and Egypt. At the end of a week-long state visit to Egypt, Tito signed a joint communique with Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser January 5 stating that "a policy of military blocs and pacts inevitably results in a suicidal armament race, causes misunderstanding among nations and heightens tension in the world." Tito and Nasser said that "the policy of nonalignment, to which the 2 countries remain consistently devoted," had become "even more significant." "The retention of methods from the past and from the times of the acute cold war results in periodical tension in different areas, which necessarily impedes the general tendency toward the relaxation of tension," the communique said. Tito and Nasser agreed to strengthen cultural, trade and economic ties between their 2 countries.

Landing at Pula, Yugoslavia January 10, Tito said that Egypt threatened no country and wanted peace. Tito had arrived in Cairo December 28. He had ended December 25 a 2-wk. visit to Ethiopia to return the visit of Emperor Haile Selassie to Yugoslavia in 1954. [See 1954 [People in the News](#)]

Israeli Knesset (Parliament) endorsed, 69-31, January 9 the position against preventive war taken by Premier David Ben-Gurion and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett. [See 1956 [Middle East: Sudan Proclaims Freedom: Other Developments](#)]... Libya's grant to the Texas Co. and Standard Oil Co. (California) of

exclusive petroleum concessions on 14.2 million acres in the Cyrenaica and Tripolitania provinces after a 2-yr. exploration program was announced by the companies January 4. [See 1955 [United Nations: 16 Get UN Membership](#)]

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