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The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew"

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1956

Clear with a few cloudy intervals; much colder; east winds 15. Low-high at Charlottetown 38 and 53.

Canada's Stand Still Uncertain

OTTAWA (CP) — Canada's official attitude toward the Middle East crisis remained uncertain Thursday night.

After a two-hour cabinet meeting, second in two days, there was no public inkling of which side or role, if any, Canada might take.

Prime Minister St. Laurent told reporters no decision had been reached.

External Affairs Minister Pearson left for New York by air immediately after the morning cabinet meeting to represent Canada at this evening's meeting of the UN General Assembly.

Mr. St. Laurent said that if a decision had to be taken by Canada Mr. Pearson would communicate with him and a special cabinet meeting would be summoned. In the meantime, he said, no cabinet meetings were scheduled before the regular weekly conference next Thursday.

OFFER NO VIEWS

The prime minister and Mr. Pearson declined to be drawn out on the government's views on Israel's foray into Egypt or of the Anglo-French armed action in the Suez Canal zone.

Asked about Australia's and New Zealand's support for Anglo-French action in Egypt, Mr. St. Laurent said he has no criticism or commendation of the stands taken by other governments.

The prime minister became annoyed when reporters pursued their questioning about the government's views on the crisis.

"It's too bad that you can't come in (to the cabinet meeting) and tell us how to do it," he said heatedly.

ARMS EMBARGO

Mr. St. Laurent announced Wednesday an embargo on Canadian arms shipment to Israel and Egypt. But Canadian shipments to Britain and France under the NATO mutual aid program have not been stopped, officials said.

In recent months, these shipments have comprised small quantities of ammunition, electronic equipment and other military stores. The bulk of mutual aid has gone to smaller NATO countries with the exception of 400 Sabre jet fighter planes sent to the United Kingdom several years ago.

Many officials here found it ironic — if not tragic — that the split in the Western Alliance should develop at a time when Mr. Pearson was working on recommendations for increased NATO co-operation in the political sphere.

Grave Fears Held For 118 Men Trapped In Mine At Springhill

Canadian-born Airmen Leads Airfields Raid

VALLETTA, Malta (AP)—The first operation against military airfields in Egypt Wednesday was carried out by a squadron of Valletta-born Wing Cmdr. W. J. Burnett, air headquarters here announced Thursday night.

Describing the operation, Burnett—who comes from Fredericton, N.B., and has 19 years' service in the RAF—said "our target was the airfield at El Maza between Cairo and Heliopolis."

"We set out Wednesday evening and flew uneventfully on the 800-mile course until we came over the target area at 2,000 (8 p.m.).

STRIKE TARGET

"We had picked out Alexandria en route and although we saw no street lighting in Cairo we could make out the whole layout of the capital."

Burnett, 40, said the Valiants made two runs over El Maza before their first bombing run. Canberra marker aircraft had previously dropped flares which were spotted on the intersection of runways.

"Conditions were ideal for the attack and we recorded all our bombs in the target area," said the ex-Maritime. "There was a certain amount of firing from light anti-aircraft guns but it seemed erratic."

Eden Wins Approval For Prompt Action In Crisis

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister Eden Thursday night won a vote of confidence for his armed intervention in the Middle East.

In a rowdy session of Parliament that was suspended at one stage because of disorder, Eden's government defeated an opposition Labor motion by 255 to 69.

A government counter-motion asking approval of its decision to send forces against Egypt was carried by 323 votes to 255, a majority of 68.

The House voted first on the Labor motion which deplored the government's "resort to armed force" against Egypt and accused it of violating the United Nations charter, affronting a large section of the British people, dividing the Commonwealth, straining the North Atlantic Alliance, and "gravely damaging the foundations of international order."

"POLICE ACTION"

"This is a police action," Eden told the House. "We stand by it and we will carry it through."

Aneurin Bevan, left-wing Labor leader, compared Eden's ultimatum to Egypt with those issued by Hitler.

"It is the language of a bully," Bevan said in winding up the debate for the Opposition.

Bevan said he had been "astounded" at the amateurishness of Eden's performance, "but there is something the matter with him."

Bevan added:

"It would be evidence of increased stature, if the government now were able to say that, having found their best friends do not sustain them in their action, that their allies are themselves dismayed by it, that the world is shocked by it—it would be an act of statesmanship for the government to say at his point we are not going to lead mankind along this odd way."

"Unless the government is able to say that—then for God's sake get out."

SUSPEND SESSION

For the first time in nearly 30 years, the House was forced to suspend its session 30 minutes because of the uproar against the government.

After the session resumed, Eden reiterated that the Anglo-French occupation is intended to be a temporary one and hinted that later the two countries would be willing to hand over the task of keeping the pace to the United Nations.

"We do not seek to impose by force a solution of the Israel-Egypt dispute, the Suez Canal dispute or any other dispute in that area," he said. "We do not seek to negotiate by ourselves alone on any one of those disputes."

Saying the urgent task at present is to separate Israel and Egypt, Eden declared: "If the United Nations were then willing to take over the physical task of maintaining peace in that area no one would be better pleased than we."

"WICKED WAR"

Deputy Labor leader James Griffiths, opening the debate after the 30-minute suspension, declared: "It has become increasingly clear that the government by its action is destroying the empire."

"The present prime minister, the successor of Sir Winston Churchill, has dealt such a mortal blow to the Commonwealth that he may be responsible for its liquidation of it."

Eden, he said, had divided the nation "more deeply and more bitterly than I remember in my lifetime." He accused the prime minister of plunging Britain "into an unjustified and wicked war" against Egypt.

Known Dead And Injured At Springhill

SPRINGHILL, N.S. (CP)—The known dead and injured in Thursday's mine explosion:

Dead

David Vance, William Ferguson, Joseph Crumme, Ben McClellan, Pieman Pyke, Lester Fisher.

Injured

Allan Skidmore, William James, Lester McDonald, Earl McCarthy, Lester Nelson, Benny Roy, Alex Spence.

Five Known Dead And 8 Injured

SPRINGHILL, N.S. (CP) — A tremendous explosion smashed the entrance to a coal mine here late Thursday. Five hours after, five men were known dead, at least eight were seriously injured, and 118 were reported officially to be trapped 3,200 feet below the surface in the gassy workings.

One miner at the pithead told a Canadian Press reporter: "I don't think there is a hope of getting them out."

Company officials said rescue workers—famous volunteer "draegermen" of the Nova Scotia pits—still were unable to work into the mine.

One draegerman was killed by deadly fumes and two more taken to hospital.

First official reports said 108 men were caught by the explosion in No. 4 colliery of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company.

Later company spokesmen said 10 foreigners also were trapped.

Hundreds of frozen-faced relatives stood quietly around the bleak, blackened pithead waiting for some hopeful sign from the pit.

Death of the draegerman dampened hopes. Bill Ferguson died at the 3,000-foot level in heavy gas that penetrated his oxygen mask. The trapped men were believed to be spread out at positions 300 feet below that.

Mine officials said they would not give up rescue efforts until they knew how deep the gas had penetrated.

The explosion shook this northern Nova Scotia town about 5 p.m. AST, killing one miner, fatally injuring three, and injuring six. Buildings were rocked and windows shattered in the area.

HAT PEGS EMPTY

Empty pegs in the mine's lamp house told who was underground.

About 100 cars were lined up at the pithead, waiting to serve as ambulances. Ambulances, trucks, and doctors were being rushed to the scene by air and highway.

About 100 beds were set up on the company grounds and blood supplies were waiting.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by coal dust, officials said. For a time there was danger of another explosion from gas fumes that misted through the black tunnels.

About 11 p.m. officials said this danger had decreased. Relatives, who had been held away from the pithead, were allowed to move forward.

PREPARE FOR TREATMENT

Police sirens wailed through town streets, trying to keep traffic moving and appealing for blankets. The hospital took in extra beds and prepared for mass treatment. The Springhill Army was turned into a hospital annex and, if necessary, would become a temporary morgue.

No. 4 colliery of the Cumberland Company where the explosion occurred is only a few yards from the company's No. 2 pit. Entrances to both were scattered with debris and the smouldering ruins of shattered buildings.

It took several hours for draeger crews to work their way into the mine. Soon after the first three were carried out. One died from fumes.

NO HESITATION

Within minutes another crew started to descend. They were grim-faced and determined but showed no hesitation.

In the town there was an air pocket tender's in a deep-sea diving tuck as a compression chamber.

RESCUE AVENUE

It is believed that draegermen making attempts to rescue trapped men in No. 4 are using this means to get into the 3,200 foot level. This level is commonly known as the transfer bottom in No. 4 colliery.

Damage to surface workings probably makes this the only avenue of entry for rescue workers.

Both No. 2 and No. 4 use the slope to drive into their workings. A slope is an avenue of travel by man and coal rakes going down at a degree. In the case of No. 4 colliery it is a 30 degree descent.

In shaft mines, descent is made vertically in the various levels.

UN Considering Cease-Fire Vote

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (CP) — Secretary of State John Foster Dulles of the United States Thursday night urged the emergency special session of the United Nations Assembly to call for an immediate cease fire in Egypt.

His resolution was put before the assembly after the body overcame British and French opposition and voted 62 to 2 to consider means of ending the hostilities. Britain and France cast the two negative votes.

Canada voted with the majority and there were seven abstainers including New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

External Affairs Minister Pearson of Canada said he would make no comment prior to addressing the assembly. He said he expects to speak today, probably during the morning session.

Pearson said he would not comment on the U.S. resolution until he has had a chance to study it.

In his resolution, Dulles also asked the assembly to recommend:

1. That Israel withdraw behind the armistice lines immediately.
2. That all UN members refrain from introducing war materials into the area. This would apply to Britain and France, which are going ahead with preparations to occupy the Suez Canal zone.
3. Upon the cessation of taking effect, the Suez Canal be opened for free passage of ships.
4. The assembly to remain in emergency session pending compliance with the recommendations.

The high points of the U.S. resolution were the same as those contained in a resolution vetoed by Britain and France Tuesday in the Security Council.

SAYS SESSION ILLEGAL

French delegate Louis de Guiringaud protested that the session is illegal. He said France would question the validity of any resolution approved at the session.

Sir Pierson Dixon of Britain told the assembly that Britain shares the French view questioning the validity of the session but that he decided to attend because Britain feels the UN could serve a purpose in helping solve the problem in the Middle East.

Dixon said Britain and France acted because of the lack of effective power by the Security Council to deal with the emergency.

Dixon said Egypt has flouted the UN by maintaining a belligerent status with Israel and denying passage through the Suez Canal to Israeli ships.

NO DESIRE TO REMAIN

The British delegate said Britain and France have no desire to remain in the Suez Canal zone any longer than necessary to protect it from the fighting between Israel and Egypt.

Just as Prime Minister Eden had stated in the House of Commons earlier in the day, Dixon told the assembly the British and French were taking "police action." He said if the UN is prepared physically to take over the task of carrying on this action, Britain would be happy to turn it over to the UN.

Dixon said that from all the information at the French and British governments' disposal they had reason to believe that a major clash whose consequences would have been incalculable was about to occur between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

The Israeli incursion into Egypt made it necessary to take immediate measures to prevent war, which would have involved prolonged disruption of free passage through the canal.

Use Cars To Light Amherst Runway

AMHERST (CP) — A 2,500-foot wartime air strip was being ringed by automobiles to provide illumination for a special aircraft bearing oxygen tanks for resuscitation of the trapped men in nearby Springhill's No. 4 colliery.

The motorcade of Amherst motorists has been organized by Amherst Daily News Editor Dick Anderson, a squadron leader in the RCAF reserve. The original runway lights were lifted after the war.

British, French Warships Near Both Ends Of Canal

LONDON (CP) — British and French warships neared both ends of the Suez Canal Thursday night as Egyptian President Nasser vowed: "We shall not surrender."

British-French headquarters in Cyprus said Allied planes are believed to have destroyed 50 Egyptian aircraft on the ground and seriously damaged 40 others in operations on military airfields.

The naval approach to the canal from the Mediterranean and Gulf of Suez came after the Anglo-French air forces had pounded Egyptian military airfields for 24 hours in a softening-up process. Carrier-borne planes jettisoned bombs in hitting Egyptian targets.

Israel Thursday night claimed capture of the Sinai Peninsula—all of Egypt east of the canal—and said survivors of a 20,000-man Egyptian force were fleeing westward to Port Said and Ismailia.

SUPPORT ATTACK

The House of Commons gave Prime Minister Eden a vote of confidence 324 to 255—a majority of 69—in support of the British-French attack on Egypt.

President Nasser's government said a British-French air raid sank an Egyptian warship in the Suez Canal channel "and as a result navigation was stopped in the waterway."

Then came the British version. British-French headquarters in Cyprus said a blockship which Egyptians were towing into position for sinking to block shipping was bombed to the bottom by British planes outside the ship channel.

The French defence ministry said aircraft carriers went into action at both ends of the waterway. Presumably the carriers were in company with forces of destroyers and cruisers, and perhaps troop transports.

NO LANDINGS YET

But combined British-French landings had not been announced, and presumably were awaiting the time when Egyptian President Nasser's air force of jet MiGs acquired from Russia should be knocked out.

British Venoms from Cyprus draked nine airfields, including Abu Sueir, Fayid and Kabrit in the canal zone; Kastareet and In-chass, 35 miles outside Cairo, with rockets, cannon fire and delayed-action bombs.

New Fighting In Budapest

BELGRADE (Reuters)—A report from Budapest early today said that violent fighting had started again in the streets of Budapest. Barricades were being erected in the streets and there was machine-gunning, the report added.

BRIEFS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

CONFERS WITH QUEEN

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister Eden lunched with the Queen Thursday and reported to her on the Middle East situation.

CRUISE CANCELLED

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — The Swedish-American Line has cancelled the round-the-world cruise of the liner Kungsholm because of conditions in the Middle East.

STRICT CENSORSHIP

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Censorship was in force Thursday in nearly every Arab capital and in Israel. Postal, telephone and telegraph services between Egypt and Britain were severed and Cairo communications with the rest of the world passed through other capitals, mainly Damascus and Rome.

PRO-EGYPT RALLY

LAHORE, West Pakistan (AP) — Police used clubs Thursday to break up a demonstration by 1,000 Pakistanis, mostly students, protesting the British-French attack on Egypt. Ten people were injured. The crowd chanted pro-Egyptian slogans as it marched toward the British deputy high commissioner's office.

SUPPORT FROM CHINA

HONG KONG (AP) — Premier Hou Eg told Egyptian Ambassador Hassan Rajab Thursday Communist China "resolutely supports Egypt in its sacred struggle to uphold national independence and sovereignty." Peiping radio said Chou and Rajab conferred in the Chinese capital.

ALGIERS QUIET

ALGIERS (AP) — The second anniversary of the Algerian uprising passed quietly Thursday, overshadowed by events in the Middle East. Fears that the Algerians might strike a spectacular blow against the French did not materialize, although a small bomb caused some damage in Algiers.

RELATIVES WATCH

Hundreds of relatives stood around the grimy pithead as rescue miners worked in the wreckage that blocked off the mine entrance.

The pit has always aroused fears among residents because of its high gas content and there was obvious concern among officials over the trapped miners' safety. Because of plugged telephone lines and empty offices it was difficult to get details from official sources, but one department head said there were at least 108 underground and all contact with them was cut off.

Every available station wagon in town was pressed into service as an ambulance. They were lined up at the pithead. Those injured in the blast included Lester Nelson, Joseph Crumme, Ben McClellan and Pieman Pyke.

The first person to estimate the number of trapped was Norman McDonald, a company welder, whose brother was one of the trapped.

BANKHEAD SHATTERED

There was a confusion of early reports. But it became clear from several sources, including a veteran news correspondent, that this was the story.

Two shifts of men — possibly fewer than 110 in each shift—went down the slope at 3:30 p.m. AST to start work on a new shaft they had been working about 1 1/2 hours when the explosion occurred in the slope of No. 4 shaft. The men working on the bankhead—where the coal is piled on the surface—got the full blast. The bank head was shattered to pieces and a small fire started but was soon put under control.

Such was the force of the explosion that one unidentified man was stripped naked and blown through a window of the shaft-house. He was badly burned along with others.

FACES STRAINED

The explosion occurred when Nova Scotia was enjoying the mildest November day on record. Anxious relatives waiting at the pithead perspired as they milled about quietly, their faces strained and eerie in the flickering light as draegermen moved to the slope and a stiff breeze swayed a line of hastily rigged lighting.

The pithead is at the south end of the main street of the little town that is situated in the rolling hills of Cumberland County less than 20 miles from Amherst.

Saint's Hospital is small but efficient in emergency accommodation. It is being set up in the armory. The mine is operated by the Cumberland Railway Company, a subsidiary of Dominion Steel and Coal Company. Mining began in 1872 and in recent years its annual capacity was 750,000 tons. No. 2 mine is the deepest in Canada, extracting coal from a vertical depth of 4,000 feet. There is no information on the depth of No. 4 where the accident occurred.

Eisenhower Discusses Crisis Then Returns To Campaigning

WASHINGTON (CP) — President Eisenhower discussed the Middle East crisis with his military and diplomatic advisers Thursday and then sent State Secretary John Foster Dulles off to place the U.S. viewpoint before the United Nations.

A few hours later, the president himself left for Philadelphia to resume his campaign for next Tuesday's U.S. election and to deliver a major political speech on the Middle East situation.

Eisenhower met for two hours with the National Security Council, the top-level body which advises the president and his cabinet on defence strategy and planning for the security of the nation.

As is customary, there was an announcement following the meeting. However, it was assumed the council's deliberations followed the policy patterns laid down by the president himself Wednesday night in his radio and television address to the American people.

OUTLINED POLICY

Then, Eisenhower outlined three basic points of U.S. policy toward the existing Middle East picture:

1. No U.S. involvement in the present hostilities.
2. Reliance on the United Nations to provide a solution.
3. Use of every means within U.S. power—short of military involvement—to localize the fighting and to end the conflict.

The departure of Dulles to the UN meeting emphasized the importance which the Eisenhower administration attaches to the deliberations as a way out of the present impasse. Dulles was accompanied by his key advisers on UN affairs and the Middle East.

Seize British, French Property

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian government Thursday seized all British and French property in Egypt.

RUSSIANS SEND IN MORE TANKS

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Hungary Thursday quit the Warsaw Pact — the "Russian NATO" — and protested against Russian tanks rolling into the country across the northeast frontier.

At the same time, Premier Imre Nagy called the United Nations to urgently consider the Hungarian situation at its emergency General Assembly session.

At UN headquarters, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold made public Nagy's communication.

Nagy told the Soviet ambassador that Hungary now is "neutral" and that he will ask protection for Hungary's neutrality from the United Nations and from the great powers.

Nagy then sent notes on his talks with the Russian ambassador to all accredited diplomats in Budapest.

Earlier in the day, Nagy wired Soviet President Klement Voroshilov asking for a date and place to negotiate the withdrawal of Russian troops from Hungary.

CROSS INTO HUNGARY

Reports reaching here said that for three hours early today, Russian tanks, guns and trucks crossed into Hungary at Zahony.

Other Russian troops were reported digging in to form a "steel ring" around Budapest, about 15 to 25 miles from the city, from which they withdrew Wednesday.

Reports of the Russian movements made uneasy the people of Budapest, until then joyous at the end of the revolution which turned the city into a battlefield and claimed an estimated 7,500 Russian dead and wounded and 13,000 Hungarian casualties throughout the country.

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, newly restored Roman Catholic primate of Hungary, said the country still is in a "very serious situation."

"I shall learn about the situation and in two days time make a speech to the nation to show the way to be followed," he said in a statement.

REAL LEADER

The cardinal generally is acknowledged the country's real leader. A Communist government official Thursday described Cardinal Mindszenty as the only man in Hungary whose authority can induce the people to resume peaceful activity and stop fighting each other.

Hungary Quits Red Pact

The Communists themselves confess their party is shattered. Nagy, restored to power by the revolt and struggling to form a new government, has lost the support of the people.

Political circles say the main reason for this is the accusations—denied by the Communists—that Nagy shared responsibility for called in Russian troops when the fighting started between demonstrating students and security police.

Budapest radio said the cabinet appointed Nagy foreign minister in addition to his post as premier "to emphasize the new foreign policy of the government—that is, the intention to step out of the Warsaw Treaty and to work for the withdrawal of Soviet troops."

Budapest streets were jammed with sightseeing crowds Thursday. While firemen cleared up some still-smouldering ashes, most debris was untouched and bodies still lay on trees and sidewalks.

Only food stores were open. A national strike of all but essential industry was still in force.

Formation of a new national guard to help the army and the police maintain order until after elections was announced.



KINGSTON LEGION BRANCH HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER

At the annual dinner last night Club, the head table seating, left to right, was President Michael MacEachern, M.C., (chairman) and Mrs. MacEachern, Foster MacEachern, 1st vice-president and Mrs. MacEachern. (see story on page 2).
Guardian Photo

No. 4 Colliery In Springhill Operating More Than 25 Years

SPRINGHILL, N.S. (CP)—No. 4 colliery, prison of 118 coal miners, is a half-mile from the heart of this town's business section. It was opened more than 25 years ago when its slope or entrance incline, was driven to work two seams.

The proximity of the slope to the older No. 2 mine allowed engineers to devise a common horse-shoed shaped bankhead. The prongs of the horse-shoe point into each slope. In this way coal can be transported from a shaft mine, shunted into a central tippie for dumping into common storage.

Present mine workings angle downward 6,700 feet from its surface.

Below ground there is a passage from the adjacent No. 2 colliery to No. 4 by means of explosion doors. The doors enclose an air pocket tender's in a deep-sea diving tuck as a compression chamber.

RESCUE AVENUE

It is believed that draegermen making attempts to rescue trapped men in No. 4 are using this means to get into the 3,200 foot level. This level is commonly known as the transfer bottom in No. 4 colliery.

Damage to surface workings probably makes this the only avenue of entry for rescue workers.

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In shaft mines, descent is made vertically in the various levels.