



● Mr SADAT

Syria accused of new attacks

BEIRUT, Sun, AAP. — The new ceasefire in Lebanon is in danger of collapsing before it starts after Palestinians accused Syrian forces of launching major attacks yesterday against Palestinian and Lebanese leftist positions.

The Voice of Palestine radio said Syrian troops and armor stormed two Palestinian bases, Deir al-Ashayer and Ayt, and attacked two leftist-held towns, Rashaya and Aintoura.

The leftist-Palestinian alliance, defiantly opposing vastly superior Syrian forces, issued a three point appeal which included a call to the Soviet Union and other communist states to intercede in order to check the Syrian advances.

The Syrian version of events yesterday was not immediately available here. The two Palestinian bases, along with the hill town of Rashaya, are just inside the Lebanese border with Syria.

Aintoura, captured by left-wing forces last April, is 25 kilometres (16 miles) east of Beirut, which yesterday enjoyed a day of relative calm.

The Voice of Palestine radio said the two Palestinian bases fell after savage fighting. It gave no casualty figures.

The radio called for an emergency meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers to check the Syrian advances and urged Iraq, Libya and Algeria to take concrete steps to halt the Syrians.

Syria has not yet commented officially on the ceasefire, reportedly in Cairo by Fatah and by the official Libyan news agency.

Fatah's Cairo office said that under the truce, Syrian forces would be pulled out of Lebanon within 10 days of the agreement going into force. But it did not say when that would be.

Damascus radio said the ceasefire had been announced by Libyan mediator, Premier Abdel-Salam Jalloud, and involved the eventual disengagement of the warring forces.

He said Libyan observers had arrived in Beirut to supervise the truce. One immediate effect was the start of a slow trickle of food supplies into western Beirut, which the leftist-Palestinian alliance says has been blocked by pro-Syrian forces controlling the southern approaches to the city.

But observers said the flow of supplies could stop abruptly if the ceasefire proves to be as dimly ineffective here as it has been — according to the Palestinians — elsewhere in the country.

Local residents reported shooting late last night between two Left and Right-wing suburbs of Beirut, one of the traditional battle fronts in the Lebanese civil war before the huge Syrian incursion sparked the new conflict.

In Damascus, Arab League Secretary-General Mahmoud Riad said yesterday that before the league's peace force could start work in Lebanon there must be a full ceasefire.

The joint force includes troops from Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Sudan, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Advance contingents are reported to be already in Lebanon, but Mr Riad said he had no knowledge of this. He said he hoped to leave for Beirut today or tomorrow to make a first-hand assessment of the situation.

Two dames were also named in the list, which honored a wide range of Australians from judges and doctors to footballers and other sportsmen.

In the British list, the new knights included British World War 2 flying ace Douglas "tin legs" Bader, while composer Benjamin Britten was created a baron.

Mr Egerton is one of three new knights from Queensland, the others comprising eight from Victoria, seven from New South Wales, two each from Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, one from South Australia — and one on the Australian list born in New Zealand.

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'GET OUT OF LEBANON'

CAIRO, Sun, AAP. — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat says he is against any partition of Lebanon and warned Syria it faced the same fate the U.S. faced in Vietnam if it did not pull out of the country.

The Egyptian leader said in an interview released here yesterday that Syria should reconsider its position and withdraw from Lebanon "and leave the whole problem to the Lebanese to decide for themselves".

He said in the interview with the Iranian newspaper Atlaat: "Will Syria continue its path despite the Arab League resolutions? If so it will face the same fate which America faced in Vietnam."

Egypt believed Lebanon should not be partitioned, he went on.

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LABOR CHIEF KNIGHTED IN AUSTRALIA

LONDON, Sun, AAP.— Jack Egerton, senior Vice-President of the Australian Labor Party—which suspended the Imperial honors system while in office from 1972-75—today was named one of 22 new Australian knights in the Queen's Birthday list.

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No decision on Soviet base for Tonga

WELLINGTON, Sun, AAP.— New Zealand is satisfied that Tonga has taken no decision to allow the Soviet Union to go ahead with proposal to establish a fishing base in the South Pacific kingdom, Foreign Affairs Minister Brian Talboys has said.

He said as a result it was decided not to send a diplomat to the

archipelago — called the Friendly Islands — to investigate the reports.

Concern at the prospect of the Russians extending their influence in the South Pacific through Tonga, which lies about 1200 miles (1932 kilometers) north of here, was expressed by Prime Minister Robert Muldoon during a television news interview. He

said earlier he was sending a diplomat to the islands.

Reports of Soviet interest in establishing a base there to service fishing vessels developed following a visit in mid-April to Tonga by the Soviet Ambassador here, Mr Oleg Selyaninov. He went there to present his credentials as his country's first Ambassador.

At the time, a Soviet diplomat here dismissed the reports as ridiculous, and a Soviet counsellor said he doubted that Russian fishing vessels regularly called at Tonga.

Independent since 1970, Tonga is a Commonwealth member and groups some 180 islands with a total area of 270 square miles (700 sq km).

The problem arose because Arab oil-producing nations refused to accept a situation whereby some of their money might go to Israel.

THIRD WORLD OPENS NEW AID FUND

ROME, Sun, AAP.— Eleven developing nations today donated a total of \$ U.S. 20 million (K16,200,000) to a new United Nations agricultural fund in a last-minute attempt to get the project off the ground.

Sources at the 80-nation U.N. conference called to set up the new International Fund for Agricultural Development said the latest contributions still left the fund \$ U.S. 50 million (K40,500,000) short of its \$ U.S. 100 million (K810 million) target.

But they added that preparations to get the fund going would continue regardless and a first session of its 18-member preparatory

commission was scheduled for tomorrow.

Among the Third World nations which announced donations today were India and Mexico, who contributed \$ U.S. 5 million (K4,050,000) each, and Guinea, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who each gave \$ U.S. 1 million (K810,000).

Lesser amounts were promised by Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, the Philippines, Tun-

sia and Yugoslavia, conference officials said.

Although the formal establishment of the fund has been postponed delegates are expected to initial their agreement tomorrow in order to enable the IFAD to go into operation early next year.

The OPEC oil-producing nations have promised to provide \$ U.S. 400 million (K324,000,000) on the condition that \$ U.S. 600 million (K486,000,000) is provided by the

developed countries.

A further problem regarding the exact status of Israel was solved in committee today when delegates agreed that although Israel would be regarded as a potential recipient country, it would not in fact expect to be granted any aid from the new fund.

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