

Egypt Reported Using Gas

CIA Tells White House That Lethal Fumes Were Tested on Saudi Arabian Villages

By Jack Anderson

OMINOUS REPORTS on the Middle East crisis forwarded to the White House by the Central Intelligence Agency say that the Egyptians have used lethal gas in battlefield tests against isolated Saudi Arabian villages.

The highly classified reports were not intended for public release. The authorities consider the situation too sensitive to be issuing accusations against President Gamal Abdel Nasser. But there is no question about the accuracy of the reports. This information is coupled with the knowledge that Nasser keeps on his payroll ex-Nazi scientists who for ten years have been working on the latest type of rocketry.

Meanwhile, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in secret assessments, keep insisting that tiny Israel is quite capable of defending herself. The stark statistics, however, are less reassuring.

The Egyptians alone have a two-to-one arms advantage over Israel. Adding the weapons of the other Arab states on Israel's borders, the advantage is more than three to one. The same combination of Arab nations has a five-to-one manpower advantage over the Israeli armed forces and a 50-to-one population advantage.

Egypt also has an arsenal of missiles capable of hitting any spot in Israel. The Joint Chiefs have pointed out that

these missiles have poor guidance and carry conventional warheads. But wild-firing missiles could do great damage to Israel's population centers.

The only missiles in the Israeli arsenal are ground-to-air Hawks, useful for knocking down planes.

THE STATISTICS may explain why Nasser, who has had the worst of it in his past encounters with Israel, now appears so confident. Another factor is that the Egyptian army is smarting under the stigma of three defeats and itching to atone for them.

Its officers remember with shame the lightning Israeli blitz in 1948, when the British withdrew from Palestine and Israel declared its independence. King Farouk was so confident of taking Israel that he had prepared a Tel Aviv stamp in advance. This defeat led to the young colonels' revolt against Farouk and put Nasser in power.

The second shame of the Egyptian army came in 1956 when the fast-moving Israeli army cut across the Sinai desert behind Egyptian lines and took the Suez Canal in less than 48 hours. Thousands of Egyptians surrendered.

The third Egyptian defeat has been in Yemen, where 70,000 men have been bogged down trying to overthrow the old royalist regime. It has developed into a war somewhat like the present stalemate in

South Vietnam.

Today the Egyptian army, well equipped and well trained, is hell-bent for vindication.

Lobbyists' Friend

THE TOBACCO lobbyists persuaded no less than the dean of the Senate, the venerable Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.), to slip them an advance copy of the latest Public Health Service report on smoking and health. They turned it over to their high-powered public relations firm, Hill and Knowlton, which had the tobacco industry's slick denials ready by the time the report was released.

The tobacco boys made their first approach to the Public Health Service, whose officials flatly refused to let them see the report in advance. Hill and Knowlton suggested that the health officials might not be so diffident if they were called on their home phones. But they were as incorruptible at home as at the office.

Finally, the cigarette lobby pulled strings with Sen. Hayden, who is 90 but in the Joint Committee on Printing, oversees the Government Printing Office. Hayden, who is 90, but in perfect health, simply directed the GPO, which prints all Government reports, to give the tobacco people an advance copy of the report they wanted.

© 1967, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc.