

Hussein And Nasser Sign Pact, Vowing Unity Against Israel

King Promises To Put Troops Under Egypt In Case of War, Ends Long Feud

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Cairo, May 30—In a dramatic display of Arab unity, King Hussein of Jordan signed a mutual defense treaty today with his arch-enemy, Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

The young King agreed that in the event of war with Israel, he would unite his troops with Egyptian troops and place them under Egyptian command.

Frequent Radio Target

Hussein's seven-hour visit had not been announced in advance. The jet pilot King took off from Amman airport at 8.30 A.M. today and headed for Cairo, home of Nasser's powerful Voice of the Arabs radio, which regularly brands Hussein an imperialist tool and calls for his overthrow.

He was met at Al Masa military airport outside Cairo by President Nasser at 11 A.M. At 4 P.M. photographers were called in to witness the signing of the agreement.

"Must Be As One Hand"

King Hussein shook hands and, Arab fashion, kissed Nasser, who in recent speeches has called Hussein, among other things, an agent for the United



UPI Telephoto

President Nasser and King Hussein embrace at Cairo airport

States Central Intelligence Agency.

With an emotion-choked voice, Hussein said the divisions between Arabs were finished.

"All Arabs must be as one hand," he said.

He also joined hands and kissed Ahmed Shukairy, leader

of the Palestine refugee liberation movement, who has been even more vehement in calling for the King's overthrow.

Nasser, his deep voice also betraying emotion, thanked Hussein and repeated the expression that the Arab world must now become "one hand" against Israel.

The agreement and emotional meeting were dramatic reminders of the fact that the chronically disunited world of 80,000,000 Arabs can unite only on one issue—fear and hatred of Israel.

The Arabs were united once before earlier in this decade when Israel announced it would divert the waters of the Jordan River. The Arabs drew up joint plans for retaliation, held several summit meetings, and then fell to feuding among themselves as before.

The new Arab-Israeli crisis, which reached fever pitch last week when Nasser blockaded Israel's water to the sea, has united the Arabs once again.

To a greater or lesser degree, all the Arab nations are now under in his confrontation with Israel.

There were even rumors in Cairo today that King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, leader of the conservative bloc of Arab nations and Nasser's chief opponent in the Arab world, might come to Cairo. Faisal is now on a visit to Belgium.

Before signing the agreement, Hussein and Nasser telephoned Iraq's President, Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Arif.

No details of the telephone conversation were released immediately, but the Iraqi flag was flying along with the Egyptian and Jordanian flag this afternoon at Kubbah Palace, the late King Farouk's palace where Nasser now has his office. The agreement was signed there.

Although it has its differences with Egypt, Iraq is in the "progressive" block of Arab nations headed by Nasser.

King Hussein was accompanied by his Prime Minister and chief of staff. When he took off to return to Amman at about 6 P.M., it was reported that Shukairy was in the aircraft with him.

In January, 1966, Shukairy was in Jordan—where the majority of the Palestine refugees live—to make peace with King Hussein. The agreement they reached in February fell apart by June. Shukairy went back to his Cairo base and joined in the attacks on Hussein.

After the large Israeli raid on the Jordanian border village of Samu last November, Shukairy and Nasser called on the Palestine refugee population in western Jordan to overthrow Hussein because he was soft on Israelis.

Another major issue between Hussein and Nasser has been the King's strong ties with the United States and Britain. He irked Nasser by buying American arms and aircraft instead of cheaper Russian hardware offered him by the Egyptian-led Unified Arab Command. The Unified Arab Command has been a shaky structure created to coordinate Arab forces against Israel.

Headquarters Visited

Hussein and Nasser briefly visited the command headquarters here after signing the pact today.

Nasser already signed a mutual defense pact with Syria last year.

More such bilateral agreements, if they are reached as a result of the current crisis, may be fed into the Unified Arab Command.