

Suez Lifeline Dominated British Politics During 1956

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—The Suez Canal dominated British political life in the last half of 1956—nothing else really mattered.

The turning point came July 26 when Egypt's ambitious President Abdel Nasser, angered by an abrupt United States decision to withhold funds for financing the Aswan Dam, nationalized the international waterway and in one stroke made the Middle East the focal point of world attention.

Nasser's decision, with its threat to the vital oil supplies of Britain and Western Europe, set off a chain reaction whose final consequences are still uncertain. For Britain, it meant the end of the gravest domestic political crisis the country has ever seen in peacetime.

MILITARY INTERVENTION

After weeks of fruitless negotiations, Prime Minister Eden's Conservative government took forceful steps. After Israeli troops marched into Egypt late in October, Britain and France delivered a 15-hour ultimatum to the warring forces. When it was ignored, Anglo-French air forces mainly based on Cyprus bombarded Egyptian airfields, paving the way for landings in the Port Said area.

At home, the political storm kicked up nearly as much dust as the fighting. Although Conservatives and Labourites alike had seemed at first united on the need for vigorous action, divisions quickly became apparent. Labourites demanding that the dispute be taken to the United Nations.

The Anglo-French intervention unloosed wild scenes in the House

of Commons. What was called the "great divide" yawned between the government forces on one side and a jeering opposition on the other. It was the first time since the Boer war that Britain had taken armed action in disunity and the consequences soon became apparent.

Prime Minister Eden, who had succeeded Sir Winston Churchill at the helm in April, 1955, was booed by some of the large crowds which gathered in the crisis atmosphere outside Downing Street and the Commons. A stop-the-war meeting one Sunday early in November drew crowds in their thousands to Trafalgar Square. Two ministers resigned, and some backbench Conservatives expressed disquiet at a war—officially called a "police action"—which virtually all the uncommitted organs of opinion in Britain opposed.

World opinion, as reflected in the United Nations General Assembly, showed itself overwhelmingly hostile.

BITTER DEBATE

Eden, 59, made a radio address Nov. 3 appealing for support of his forceful policy. He stressed that "I am a man of peace" and few doubted his sincerity. The next evening, in a similar address, opposition leader Hugh Gaitskell said that Eden was "utterly, utterly discredited" and called on Conservatives to depose him.

Then, surprisingly, despite press headlines mirroring adverse reaction in the Commonwealth and the world at large, public opinion swung behind Eden. The government rallied briefly, survived votes of confidence but finally left temporarily without its leader when it was disclosed, in a sudden

midnight announcement from Downing Street, that Sir Anthony was suffering from over-strain and would have to rest, on doctor's orders. A few days later he left for a holiday in Jamaica.

Sir Anthony returned to London declaring himself "greatly invigorated" by the stay in Jamaica. Among editorial comment on his return the right-wing Daily Express said there was a clamor for a "fresh, realistic policy, promptly evolved."

Recent rumors that Sir Anthony might give way to either of his chief lieutenants—R. A. Butler and Harold Macmillan—were treated with reserve. Politicians said Sir Anthony still commanded more support in the country and in Parliament than any other government minister.

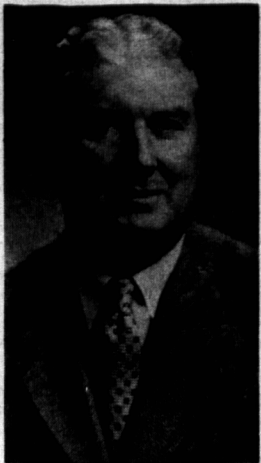
Mr. Butler, Lord Privy Seal, had acted in Eden's place. As the year drew to a close, British troops were being withdrawn from Egypt, an action many Conservatives considered as a subject matter and a humiliating defeat. While the party remained in office, there was talk of a possible snap election and even of a coalition government to carry Britain through the harsh economic consequences of Suez.

Earlier in the year, Eden successfully beat off attacks from within his own ranks. Criticism appeared to be mainly that the Premier was a "ditherer" who kept putting off decisions. The Daily Telegraph, a conservative paper usually counted among the government's strongest supporters, called for a firm policy. A Sunday newspaper, The People, carried a speculative report that Eden would resign in midsummer, but the rumor was denied in a statement from Downing Street.

PARTY CHANGES

During the year, the Labor party "lurches to the left." This was shown at the annual party meeting in October, when left-winger Aneurin (Nye) Bevan won his way back into an important position by beating right-winger George Brown in an election for the party treasurer's job. Later, a "new" Bevan, showing surprising moderation, was named "shadow" foreign secretary, indicating he might be in charge of Britain's foreign policy if a Labor government is elected.

Britain's small third party, the Liberals, changed leaders during October. Clement Davies, 72-year-old veteran, gave way to young Jo Grimond, in his early 40s. In his first few appearances as leader, Grimond made a good impression with some telling interventions, and there was some hope among liberals that the once-



G.M.A. HEAD

W. Eric Wilson who has been elected Vice President and General Manager of General Motors Acceptance Corporation of Canada, Limited.

12 Cases Before Magistrate in Georgetown

12 Cases were heard at Magistrate's Court in Georgetown Wednesday before Stipendiary Magistrate Gilbert Gaudet.

A resident of Gaspereaux, charged under the Excise Act with possession of a still, was fined \$100.00 and costs or three months in the King's County Jail.

Two residents of Montague and a resident of Greenfield, charged under the Temperance Act with possession of liquor in other than his own residence, were each fined \$20.00 and costs or thirty days.

A resident of Peakes, charged with driving while intoxicated, had his case adjourned for two weeks to obtain counsel. A resident of Murray Harbor North, charged under the same act, while driving while intoxicated, was fined \$20.00 and costs on each count.

A resident of Montague charged with being intoxicated in a public place and disturbing the peace by fighting, was fined \$20.00 and costs on each count.

Two persons were charged under the Highway Traffic Act; one from Montague was fined \$8.00 and costs or five days for failing to have his car registration changed; great party would begin a revival.

The retirement of Clement Davies completed a remarkable cycle. It meant that in the space of little more than a year the leaders of the three parties all had made way for new men. Churchill on the Conservative side in 1955 and Clement Attlee, now Earl Attlee, on the Labor side late the same year.

GEORGETOWN

Mr. B.H. Stewart, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Albert Hobbs, left by plane early in the week for Ottawa, Ont., where Mr. Stewart will visit. Mrs. Hobbs was called home recently by the death of her mother.

Mrs. R.A. Rousselot and daughter of Mont Joli, Quebec, arrived in Georgetown recently. They are the guests of Mrs. Rousselot's parents, Captain and Mrs. Thomas Trenholm.

Mr. Lester MacLeod of Montague, was a recent business visitor to Georgetown.

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Martell had as their weekend guests, their daughters, Miss Verna Martell, school teacher at Cherry Valley and Miss Helen Martell, school teacher at Millview.

Miss Mae Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen, left recently for Boston, Mass., where she has obtained employment.

Mr. John Batchelder, night engineer on the Ferry Charles A. Dunning, arrived at his home last week for the winter months, his ship having been laid up at Pictou, N.S.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie MacLean of Charlottetown, were recent guests of Mr. MacLean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm MacLean.

Mr. Joseph Allen of Mitchell River, left recently for Boston, Mass., where he will visit relatives.

Mr. Warren Baker and Mr. Louis Victor, returned on Saturday from Boston, Mass., where they delivered a truck load of Christmas trees.

Missing Whiskey Cases in Glasgow

GLASGOW (Reuters)—Eleven cases of Scotch whisky are on the loose in Glasgow today—and giving detectives a hangover.

If the whisky isn't recovered by New Year's eve, even Sherlock Holmes wouldn't stand a chance to recover the highland dew, they ruefully admit.

Nearly 100 cases of the stuff accidentally fell off a truck Tuesday as it raced through the city on its way to the docks.

Two police cars gave chase to tell the driver his board was disappearing, but each time they were about to overtake him another crate would fall and block the road. Every time, the cops would stop and pick it up before resuming the chase.

By the time driver Albert Wright realized what was up, the word had spread to an incredulous Glasgow. In a fit of what police called "tremendous" co-operation, they reverently watched the cops recover the crates.

All but 11, that is. And that's what is worrying Glasgow hawk-shaws as Hogmanay approaches.

QUEBEC LAKE
St. Louis Lake, nine miles from Montreal, was so named by Samuel de Champlain in 1611.

COMPLEX FOUNDATION

Built on reclaimed land, the Pentagon, military headquarters at Washington, rests on 41,492 concrete piles.

Sees Events in Hungary As Terrible Defeat For Russia

OTTAWA (CP)—Immigration Minister Pickersgill said Tuesday he sees the events in Hungary as "a terrible defeat for the Russians."

The minister, just back from a 15-day tour of European countries to evaluate the Hungarian refugee problem and speed the flow of refugees to Canada, told a press conference that the Russians "don't know how to deal with the situation in Hungary."

The Russian, he said, had failed utterly to establish a Communist party in Hungary. "After 11 years of Soviet domination in Hungary this failure was perfectly clear."

In fact when the uprisings began the feeling of the Hungarian people turned definitely anti-Communist.

CAREFULLY SCREENED

Mr. Pickersgill said he wanted

to make this point clear to Canadians who might think that in welcoming thousands of Hungarian refugees that Canada might be admitting "a whole lot of dangerous Communists."

It was true that a few Communists might slip through the Canadian immigration screen. But the fact remained that Hungary was different from Poland and Yugoslavia where there was a form of self-governing communism. In Hungary, communism never got a foothold.

Mr. Pickersgill said the Hungarian refugee problem was not an ordinary immigration problem. It was a problem "in the struggle between the Free World and the world that isn't free."

The way the West handled "this problem created by Soviet communism" was going to decide "the way we are going to be judged."

NOTICE

ISLAND MOTOR TRANSPORT LTD.
HOLIDAY BUS SCHEDULES

On Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 the Bonshaw Bus will operate regular schedule.

On Dec. 25 all trips (except Bonshaw), will operate on regular schedule.

On Dec. 26 all trips will operate on Sunday schedule.

On Jan. 1 the Tignish & Bonshaw Buses will operate Sunday schedule.

All other runs on regular schedule.

EFFECTIVE DEC. 21, 1956.

All trips to Wood Islands—Murray River—Murray Harbour North & South will be discontinued for the winter months.

FOR INFORMATION
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Now the motion picture screen captures its most towering adventure... the story of six-foot-six Jim Bowie—gambler, knife-fighter and smuggler—who led his lusty band of brawling heroes in the most glorious of all battles for frontier freedom!

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A towering motion picture adventure!

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THURSDAY FRIDAY
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Chocolates, pkg. 79c

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LOWNEY'S
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GRADE "A" TURKEYS
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Supreme Aluminum Self-Basting ROASTERS

4 Pc. Set \$22.50

2-piece Set \$10.75

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Large 10.95
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Size for 9 lb. Turkey 7.95



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EASTERN GUARDIAN

STILL TIME to have your clothing cleaned for Xmas at De Luxe Cleaners Montague.

ALMA SCHOOL Christmas concert, Cambridge Hall, Thursday, Dec. 20th, at 8 p.m.

DRESSED capons for delivery. 24 hour notice. Hammond Reid, Montague. Phone 64-7.

GOING OUT of business—25 per cent discount on our complete stock—Montague 5 cent to \$1.00 store.

CHRISTMAS is only hours away for that final gift. See our line of watches, records, jewelry, electric shavers, records, jewelry and ornaments. At Peplers.

Thankoffering Held By Women's M.S.

The annual Thankoffering Service of the Women's Missionary Society was held in the Murray Church on Sunday evening, November 25.

The service was conducted by the minister Rev. M. C. Currie. Special music included two vocal selections by the Murray River Trio, "Go tell someone about Jesus" and "Nailed to the Cross." A solo, "God Understands," was sung by Mrs. Carl Currie and two selections "Soft and Low" and "Beulah Land" were rendered by the choir.

The hymns were "Let Us with a gladsome mind," "O'er those gloomy hills of darkness," "Christ for the world, we sing," and "Speed Thy servants." After the service, the trio with their wives and organist were entertained at the Manse.

Helicopters Forced Down By Storm

QUEBEC (CP)—Two navy helicopters en route from Dartmouth, N.S., to Longueuil, Que., for overhauling were forced down on private property by a snow storm early Tuesday.

Both aircraft were able to continue when weather conditions improved.

The two-passenger helicopters had nearly completed a hop from Knob Lake, Que., to Quebec's Arsenault Lorette airport when their visibility forced them down.

One settled near the city limits and the other landed at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, about 20 miles east of Quebec.

NEW YORK (AP)—Plans were announced Thursday for a new 47-story Rockefeller Center skyscraper. It will be the first to rise on the west side of Sixth Avenue. The \$70,000,000 building will be the 19th in the Rockefeller Center group and second in size only to the 70-story RCA building.

Pleasant Social Hour Is Spent

A pleasant social hour was spent Sunday evening Dec. 17th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Coffin, Montague when they entertained the members of the Trinity United Church choir.

During the evening gifts were presented to Mr. Ivor Phillips, the choir director and Mrs. L.A. Johnston, organist. The presentations were made by Mrs. Howard Vickerson and Mrs. Lee MacLeod. The recipients thanked the members in a few well chosen words and thanked them also for the splendid co-operation they had received during the past year.

Following the singing of Christmas carols, a buffet lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Arnold Wightman and Mrs. Les MacLeod.

CYPRIOUS SHOT

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Reuters)—Two Greek Cypriots were shot dead by masked gunmen Wednesday night in Nicosia, southern Cyprus. It was announced Thursday. The victims, 47-year-old Loucas Andreou, were shot as they emerged from separate coffee shops.

AIM FOR HALF MILLION WINNIPEG (GP)—The Canadian Hungarian relief fund now stands at \$227,870, officials of the fund reported Saturday. G. S. Thorvaldson, Winnipeg, and G. G. Temesvary, Toronto, co-chairmen of the fund, said in a joint statement that they hope that the \$500,000 objective will be reached before Christmas.

HANCOCK MURRAY RIVER

I will not buy any logs until further notice.

Additional Red Shield Contributions

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- West Cape W. L. Per: Mrs. K. E. Ellis . . . \$ 4.75
- Central Bedoune W. L. Per: Mrs. Fred Jewell . . . \$10.00
- Port Hill W. L. Per: Mrs. Wm. Maynard . . . \$10.50
- Mayfield District Per: Mrs. Heath Houston . . . \$ 9.75
- Murray Harbour District Per: Mrs. T. H. Fraser . . . \$61.75
- Crapaud Additional \$ 7.00
- A. E. MacNeill, Stanley Bridge \$ 8.00
- Stewart & Beck, Montague \$10.00
- Frederickton W. L. Per: Mrs. Ella Abbot . . . \$80.00