

# IRAQ SUICIDE EGYPT TEST

BAGHDAD, Sunday. — The General Nuri Al Said, told a Press Iraq would back Egypt if Israel through the Suez Canal.

"Iraq will definitely support E wants to ask for something about something about the one million A. Nuri attacked Egypt for its anti-I paign in the past two years.

He said Egypt stopped the attacks two months ago because it realized that the people in Iraq and elsewhere were laughing at the propaganda.

General Nuri blamed Communism for the present tension in the Middle East.

Asked about co-operation with the West, he said that though the West had no doubt made mistakes, "the Arabs can always settle differences with the West—if not today, then tomorrow. But with Communist Russia there is no chance whatsoever.

"Russia has, and will, continue to use every possible, and especially illegal, method to control the Middle East."

## Agreement

A joint Iraqi-Saudi Arabian communique issued in Baghdad last night said both Governments had reached complete agreement on "safeguarding the two countries' independence against any foreign interference."

The communique covered last week's talks between King Saud, King Faisal and their advisers. It said the two countries considered that the "destructive principles" of Communism and "danger of imperialism" were threatening Arab countries.

The two Governments therefore decided to combat this danger in every possible way.

King Saud returned to Saudi Arabia yesterday after his seven-day visit to Iraq. King Faisal had agreed that no Arab State should interfere in the internal affairs of another.

## Withdrawn

The communique was said to show what may be a new Middle East line-up. King Saud said Iraq was seeking to consolidate Arab unity in spite of claims to the con-



ST. JOHN AMBULANCE WORKERS, and hospital ambulance attendants give first-aid to an exhausted fireman overcome by the fumes and smoke at the fire in the basement of Egmont Chambers, New Plymouth, on Saturday in which Deputy Chief Fire Officer L. J. Goodman lost his life. The fireman recovered quickly and was able to resume duty.

# INVESTIGATIONS INTO FATAL FIRE

## Came from fire-fighting family

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Goodman, who lost his life in the fire in Egmont Street, New Plymouth, premises on Saturday afternoon, came from a well-known Nelson fire-fighting family and had been a member of fire services since the age of 17 years, when he joined the Nelson brigade as a volunteer. When he left it 10 years later, to continue his chosen career in Wellington, there were three Goodman brothers in the Nelson brigade.

By the commencement of the war in 1939, Mr. Goodman had become a first-class fireman in Wellington, and soon after the outbreak of war, he joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the fire section. He held appointments as firemaster in air force stations in many parts of New Zealand, and in several Pacific islands.

His services on a number of occasions during the war earned the high commendation of Air Force officers.

After hostilities ceased, Mr. Goodman became station officer at North Shore, Auckland, from where he went to Napier as chief fire officer. Two years ago he became fire inspector for the Ministry of Works in the Wanganui district, and from that appointment he became New Plymouth's deputy-chief fire officer in October last.

One of his brothers is the Rev. G. H. Goodman, of Palmerston North, who has held high appointments in the Methodist Church.

## Road, air, and rail traffic affected

CHRISTCHURCH, This Day.—No road or air connection can be made yet from Christchurch to Dunedin.

It will be late this afternoon before the Main Trunk railway line has been repaired for direct south-bound traffic.

Communications north of Christchurch and to the west coast are open.

All traffic on the Main South Road has been halted at Tekuka by floodwaters.

Railwaymen are working furiously trying to repair a washout on the Main Trunk line at Puketaraki, 25 miles from Dunedin.

Tairāi airport is closed for landings.

During the week-end the National Airways Corporation maintained the only transport service between Christchurch and Wellington but flights south were cancelled yesterday because of the conditions of Tairāi airport.

A spokesman for Tasman Empire Airways Ltd. said that flights from Australia to New Zealand had not been affected by the weather here.

THE New Plymouth Fire Board was giving full consideration to the circumstances of the fire in the basement of Egmont Chambers, Egmont Street, which caused the death of Mr. L. J. Goodman, deputy-chief fire officer of the New Plymouth brigade, on Saturday afternoon, said the board chairman, Mr. F. B. Grayling, today.

"Whatever is necessary to determine the happenings will be thoroughly investigated," said Mr. Grayling, who added that when certain reports had been received, the board would meet to make a decision.

It is considered likely that a fire inquest, in which all the circumstances of the fire will be investigated, may be held, as an inquest on Mr. Goodman would be concerned only with the cause of his death and not with the circumstances surrounding the fire. A fire inspector of the New Zealand Fire Service arrived in New Plymouth by air from Wellington today to carry out investigations.

## Confined to corner

The fire was confined to a small corner on the opposite side of the basement from the staircase entrance.

In the corner, some feet away from the narrow three-deck staircase which provides the only entrance to the basement, was stored a considerable quantity of dehusked cardboard boxes on an earthen floor a few feet away from a quantity of white spirit which, however, did not catch fire.

Mr. Goodman did not return after several attempts to reach the seat of the fire, from which thick smoke and fumes had been emerging since the alarm at 3.20 p.m.

His last attempt to get to the fire was made approximately an hour later, after he had recovered when he appeared to be overcome with the fumes on a previous excursion into the cellar.

He and other firemen, equipped with respirators, could spend only a few minutes in the suffocating smoke, and when he did not return after a short period, firemen, headed by Third Officer S. W. Sedler, made valiant efforts to reach him. Mr. Sedler himself had to be revived several times, and others had to receive first-aid, especially to the eyes, from Dr. R. M. Wallis, the St. John Ambulance officers and Taranaki Hospital Board ambulance attendants who were on the scene for an hour and a half.

When the fire had been extinguished by flooding, and Mr. Goodman's body had been removed to hospital in an ambulance about 5.40 p.m., it was found that he had evidently been unable to make his way up the steps, and had got caught in them, in an awkward position.

## One outlet

The contents of the basement, which had but one outlet through an air vent, and stretched over the whole ground area of Egmont Chambers, were damaged by smoke and water. They included 26 typewriters, many of them from the

Waitara, Stratford and Hawera Technical High Schools, which the lessees of the premises, Messrs. Medley and Henderson, typewriter and office supply dealers, were repairing during the school holidays, besides large quantities of office supplies.

Only Messrs. Medley and Henderson's premises were affected, the adjoining tobacconist and hairdresser's business of Mr. George Ollington, being out off from the smoke by a fire-resisting wall. Upstairs on the first floor are the offices of Messrs. Edward Lumley and Sons (N.Z.) Ltd., while the top floor is occupied by the Taranaki Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union and O'Riordan's Land Agency.

These other floors were completely undamaged, even by smoke, which flowed thickly through Messrs. Medley and Henderson's premises for more than two and a half hours.

Firemen were roped as they went in every few minutes to brave attempts to rescue Mr. Goodman in the darkness, aided later by a powerful searchlight which the City Electricity Department provided.

## Tense drama

The fire was witnessed by a huge crowd which stood silent, and tense as the drama was fought out and finally Mr. Goodman's body was taken to the ambulance.

He had been in charge of the fire-fighting operations owing to the absence from New Plymouth of the chief fire officer, Mr. L. F. Hartley.

Mr. Hartley, one of the school's old pupils, was spending his day's leave attending the 65th jubilee celebrations of the Hurleyville school. Before the evening, banquet he was visiting Paeroia, where broadcast messages were sent out for him. When he heard the news he motored to Hawera where he met Mrs. Goodman and accompanied her to New Plymouth.

Mrs. Goodman and her daughter, aged seven and 10 years, were to have taken up residence in New Plymouth this week, having recently disposed of their Wanganui home.

Close inspections of the basement were made yesterday and today by Mr. Hartley and fire insurance representatives, while staff of the firm have been removing great quantities of useless materials, some charred, others damaged by smoke and water. Assisting in the clean-up operations yesterday were 15 members of the New Plymouth Junior Chamber of Commerce.

An inquest into the death of Mr. Goodman opened at New Plymouth

VIENNA, Sunday.—The Soviet-backed Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Janos Kadar, is believed to be planning to include moderate Communist and peasant leaders in a major "show trial," according to reports from Budapest today.

The reports said that Mr. Kadar had failed to win the support of the



General Pal Maléter.

moderates for his Government, and had secretly arrested a number of their leaders.

The former chairman of the Peasant Association, Laszlo Kardos, and a former National Peasant Party deputy, Attila Szegedy, were included.

Also among the expected defendants at the trial, according to these reports, would be General Pal Maléter.

## "With love from Prince Charles"

LONDON, Sunday.—Eight-year-old Prince Charles has written to eight-year-old Maureen Vernon, of Lillington, London, this note: "To Maureen with love from Charles."

Maureen's father, a hospital porter, went to the palace after the letter's timely operation, to help dismantle equipment according to London newspapers today. The prince was well enough to ask what Mr. Vernon was doing. He then wanted to see Mr. Vernon.

Said Mr. Vernon: "I have a daughter, Maureen, just two days older than you." The prince said: "I would like to drop her a line." He wrote his note in a sounded hand.

yesterday before the coroner, Mr. N. P. Little, with Sergeant K. W. Fletcher representing the police. Evidence of identification was given by Mr. Goodman's brother, George Harrison Goodman, and the inquest was adjourned sine die.

A fireman's funeral will be accorded Mr. Goodman at St. Mary's Church, Vivian Street, tomorrow morning, and the cremation will take place at Wangauk.