

SHIFT ON PALESTINE DENIED BY BRITISH

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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Reinforcements Are Intended
to Keep Order and to Guard
Exit, Foreign Office Says

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 3—A chorus of British spokesmen emphasized today that the dispatch of Army and Navy reinforcements to Palestine was purely a military measure to safeguard and facilitate the withdrawal of British units there and was not intended by any means to prolong the British occupation.

The presence of these additional forces does not imply any change in the British Government's intention to liquidate its administration in Palestine on May 15 and to with-

draw all its troops by Aug. 1, the Foreign Office stated.

Analysis of the British action suggested four reasons for it:

First, law and order have deteriorated in Palestine much faster than had been anticipated and, consequently, additional forces were required to maintain British authority until May 15 and afterward to protect the avenue of evacuation. British authorities in Palestine are themselves unofficially reported to have requested reinforcements. The decision to send more men was probably accelerated by the recent strong criticism in Parliament of the measures taken to safeguard British lives during the evacuation.

Second, the arrival of the reinforcements will help to discourage the Arab states from sending their regular armies into Palestine before the British authority has been terminated. It is the declared policy of the Government to resist such incursions before May 15 and official quarters do not expect any to be attempted before that time.

Third, the recent British inter-

vention against the Jewish attack on the Arab city of Jaffa and the Arab district of Katamon in Jerusalem indicated that the British authorities are making an effort to maintain the territorial status quo in Palestine. There have been unconfirmed reports from Palestine of British troops landing in Jaffa, and the Admiralty stated today that the 9,100-ton cruiser *Newcastle*, flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, had arrived in Palestinian waters from Port Said, Egypt, and was "demonstrating off Jaffa."

One reason that Arab statesmen have offered for wishing to send their regular forces into Palestine before the end of the British mandate is the fear that Jewish forces will seize strategic points immediately after Britain's surrender of authority—or even before. If the British forces could confine the Jews to their own areas this argument would be somewhat discounted.

Fourth, the British Government is sensitive to charges that it in-

tends to hand over Palestine to the United Nations in a state of chaos. The reinforcements are intended to reduce disorder during the remainder of Britain's term in Palestine and some Britons hope that the area in which a truce could operate might thereby be broadened.