

sequently denied, but the inhabitants have become increasingly restive. They contributed funds to Egyptian war victims during the Suez crisis and are daily bombarded by the Cairo radio.

Since 1922, the British government has had complete control over the foreign policies of all the seven sheikhdoms along the gulf. It was in that year that the Sheiks committed themselves -- and their successors : (1) to enter into no agreements with any other power than that of the British government; (2) to grant no oil concessions except with the approval of the British government; (3) not to give up any part of their territories except to the British government. But it may be that the most equitable (and only peaceful) settlement would be a U.N. trusteeship for the trucional Sheikhdoms with Britain as the administering power.

Under a similar arrangement, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman might also prove less of a trouble-maker. Since 1955 the Omani tribesmen, led by their Iman, have been rebelling against the authority of the Sultan, which that year was imposed over the area with the help of the British. The Iman, in turn, is supplied with armaments by Saudi Arabia, and politically encouraged by the Arab League. This month occurred another clash between the Sultan and the Iman, which the R.A.F. was again called on to quell. Under a U.N. umbrella the Omani might be granted a measure of autonomy.

ISRAEL PEACE OFFER

As the pot boiled briskly throughout the Middle East, the Israel delegate at the U.N. took an important step forward in helping to resolve the Arab-Israel deadlock. On November 17, Mr. Abba Eban expressed his country's willingness to give compensation to the Palestine Arab refugees prior to a general Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Three conditions were attached to the offer: (1) that the refugees remain in Arab lands, (2) that international financial help be made available to Israel to help settle the refugees' claims and, finally (3) that the counterclaims of Israeli citizens previously resident in Arab countries be taken into consideration.

Despite these conditions, neutral observers were said to have described the offer as representing a significant concession. Previously, Israel had maintained that as long as the Arab states kept up their virtual state of war, the Israelis could hardly be expected to cooperate in resolving the refugee problem. Arab belligerence, which still continues, has included economic boycott, blockade of the Suez Canal and blacklisting of firms that deal with Israel.

The day after Mr. Eban's speech, Mr. Ahmad Shukairy, the Saudi Arabian delegate, attacked the Israeli offer as "an unscrupulous suggestion that belonged to the jungle." Subsequently, there were no more encouraging reactions from other Arab representatives. Israeli officials expressed regret and insisted that the proposal had been "constructive and forward looking."

In his speech, Mr. Shukairy proposed, as a "counter-offer," that