AGA\n\nChurchill for Meeting of U. S., Britain and France on Levant

WANTS FRENCH-ARAB PACT
He Asserts Firing Continued After Time De Gaulle Says Cease Fire Was Given

By CLIFTON DANIEL

LONDON, June 5—In a factual, unconditional statement Prime Minister Winston Churchill contradicted today Gen. Charles de Gaulle's implication that British interference had provoked the recent battles in the Levant and expressed a hope that the British proposal for a British, French and American conference in London to negotiate a settlement of the Levantine dispute would not "be cast aside."

Addressing the House of Commons, he asserted that a five-power conference, including China and the Soviet Union, to discuss all Middle East problems, as first proposed by Moscow and formally advocated by the French Cabinet today, "would certainly cause a great deal of delay and require very careful consideration on many grounds."

The French Cabinet disclosed it would propose a conference of the Big Five powers and "interested States" to discuss the Middle East, according to a Paris dispatch.

In substance, Mr. Churchill's speech attributed the outbreak of fighting between French troops and Syrian forces to provocative acts by the French authorities, including the dispatch of military reinforcements to the Levant, against which the British Government repeatedly advised.

The Prime Minister asserted that, "far from stirring up agitation in the Levant states, our whole influence has been used in precisely the other directions."

Until British forces intervened to restore order, he said, "no arms were issued by us to the Syrians or Lebanese except by agreement with agreement with.

Continued on Page 12, Column 3

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Continued From Page 1

the French Government," although the Syrian Government earnestly requested arms to enable the police to restore order.

He added that "for the sake of preserving order we are now is-

As an earnest of Britain's dis-

"the moment a treaty has been concluded" between France and the Levant, he said, has already been signed by the general who had long since informed General de Gaulle that Britain had no interests in the area.

Reviewing British efforts to forestall the present crisis, Mr. Churchill disclosed that at Cairo last February he had "strongly im-

February and April that French reinforcements were being sent there. The British Govern-

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One warning was contained, the Prime Minister said, in a "friendly personal message to General de Gaulle, who had expressed to our Ambassador his concern as to our ultimate intentions in the Levant states." That message was sent May 4, but in his reply General de Gaulle made no mention of rein-

Mr. Churchill said he told Gen-

"I also explained that we had re-

Discussions between French au-

But were broken off by the latter after French reinforcements began arriving May 17. On May 22, the Prime Minister said, the British Government pointed out that the French were excited by too much publicity and had been discouraged by the intervention of other nations. A week later, the Prime Minister reiterated that the British had not been discouraged by the intervention of other nations. A week later, the Prime Minister reiterated that the British had not been discouraged by the intervention of other nations.

French decision. In any case, Mr. Churchill said, "the shelling of Damascus was certainly continued on the morning of May 31."

In Paris today it was stated that order had already been re-

Mr. Churchill acknowledged that 200 men of the Sixteenth Arab Battalions of a Palestine regiment were involved in a disturbance in Beirut on V-E Day, but he said there was no evidence that the Bekaa Valley had been shown or that the battalion had since been transferred.

The man who, according to his

Friends, helped to lift General de Gaulle to his present estate, is now in the eyes of many Frenchmen the villain of the present piece of Anglo-French bickering — Maj. Gen. Sir Edward Spears, lately British Minister in Beirut. Prime Minister Churchill denied that General Spears, who wrote an article in The London Sunday Dispatch last week attacking the British policy in Syria and Lebanon, had been recalled from Beirut at General de Gaulle's request. General Spears came home to fight in the parliamentary election, the Prime Minister said.

"He is the last person on whom General de Gaulle should make re-

Mr. Churchill said, "be-

Mr. Churchill said he told General de Gaulle that Britain sought advantage wherever in the Levant.

"I also explained that we had recognized France's special position in the Levant, but that does not mean we have undertaken to enforce that special position," Mr. Churchill said. It is France's claim to a "special position" that has agitated the Levant states, and they are determined not to recognize it beyond allowing France to maintain her educational and cultural institutions in Syria and Lebanon.

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Mr. Churchill then reviewed the fighting. He said that "it was a pity" that General de Gaulle did not see fit to inform the British Government of the cease-fire order sent to the Levant on May 30, and that the result was that the British order for intervention was given without the knowledge of the