

WORLD AT YOUR ELBOW

For the world this was a week of contrast in Palestine.

There was no halt in the bitter racial warfare. A few yards from Jaffa's townhall a Pathe cameraman took these exclusive pictures of the latest bomb outrage. A heavy explosion had rocked the old Arab City as the headquarters of the Arab National Committee was blown sky high. Official statements took the casualty list as more than a hundred. Nearby buildings damaged by terrorists include Barclays Bank a Police Station and a childrens orphanage. The Jaffa explosion is yet another incident in the campaign of lawlessness and violence that is sweeping the Holy Land.

Yet the birth of a nation can also be achieved by peaceful means for the 15 million people of Burma independence came by common consent after 62 years of British Rule. The Kings last representative Governor Sir Gilbert Rance leaves Rangoon. He travelled back to Britain aboard the Cruiser Birmingham, with him go the last symbols of British rule. For the first time in history a member state of the British Commonwealth of nations has exercised its right to succeed from the crown and become an independent republic. To the people of Burma newly won independence will not bring an immediate change to their life. Their country was twice a battle ground - today few national assets are left - Oil refineries are in ruins and big rice and tea exports are paralysed. Against this sombre background Burmese celebrate independence day. Astrologers and magicians have the final say in the celebrations. Highlight of the day is a boat race - that sport should mark Burma's birthday is a tribute to many Britons that have left a mark on Burmese life. The new republic faces its future helped by the legacy of British tradition.