

BELGIUM SAYS "NO" TO LEOPOLD.

Called back by only a small majority, 10 days later Leopold III hands over power to his son, Prince Baudouin, here seen following him. At the Laeken Palace the decision was taken. The King's return, on which the people voted, split Belgium. Whilst some welcomed the return of the monarchy after long years of discussions and negotiations, there were others nearly as numerous who refused the monarch himself. Led by former Premier Paul Spaak, they demonstrated and the rift was wide open. Strikes broke out everywhere, threatening to bring Belgium to a standstill. Called back by the Government, the King was there by right, but an enraged mob knows no right but its own. Crisis comes to a head as strikers begin rioting. In Brussels they bring traffic to a stop.

Isabelle Hum and other socialist leaders urge restraint but the mob's out of hand.

Consumed with their own mad will, mobs always see the police as their enemies, but civil order must be maintained whilst leaders try to solve the problem. Civil war loomed as a possibility as 300,000 Walloons threaten to march on Brussels. Here cracked heads are the chief injuries, but in Liege police had to open fire to restore order and 3 people were killed.

It's a frightening sight, to see a country divided against itself. By coming together leaders of the three parties found a solution which for the peace of his country Leopold has accepted. For the peace of the world a great step has been taken. A Belgium angrily split is a dangerous gap in Western Union Security.

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