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OILMEN BACK FROM ABADAN

Abadan, the world's greatest oil refinery, passes out of British hands as the last of the British staff is evacuated by government order. When the men of the oilfields left Persia a maintenance staff of 300 remained at Abadan. Now these, too, are on their way.

Supported by Persian oil board chief Makki, Premier Mossadeq first made negotiations impossible, then ordered the British staff to leave, defying the Hague Court's ruling that there should be no change.

In New York, through Sir Gladwyn Jebb, Britain asks the United Nations Security Council to intervene and prevent the expulsion of the Abadan staff whilst the matter is before the international court, whose ruling Britain will, of course, accept. Sir Gladwyn Jebb begins Britain's case.

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Soviet delegate Tsarapkin's objection that Britain's resolution would mean intervention in Persian national affairs is outvoted but Persia's request for a ten days' postponement to allow Mossadeq to face the council is agreed and there's nothing to stop the evacuation.

And so at London Airport the 'first of the last' arrive; nurses who cared for Persian and white alike to the end, despite the trials and worry of the past months. And with them come some of the men who helped to make Abadan the wonder it is. Most of them deny they asked to be taken out and say they were prepared to stay as long as needed. In an office Anglo-Iranian staff welcome the arrivals and speed their homeward journey. They have served Britain well under great difficulties and Persia will miss their help. And now let a nurse have the last word:

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The question is: will the Persian hospital staff be able to carry on?