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U.S. 7TH FLEET PUT ON ALERT

Far East Action Is Called
Normal Precaution

Quantico, Va., June 17 (AP)—The 7th Fleet in the Far East is in a "normal precautionary alert," the Defense Department said today.

A spokesman said that this apparently limited alert was due to the presence of President Eisenhower in the area and "the general tempo of the times in the

Pacific and particularly in the Formosan area."

The 7th Fleet, which has its forward bases in Japan and in the Philippines, now includes three carriers, the spokesman said after conferring with Adm. Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations. The fleet usually has two or three carriers on station in the western Pacific.

Burke and virtually all others of the top civilian and military high command are at this Marine Corps base for their annual conference.

The spokesman was asked whether any move had been made or is contemplated to strengthen United States military forces in the Far East to meet the possibility of trouble from Red China.

The answer was that "none has

been announced."

He was asked if any new action had been taken to strengthen the forces of the Chinese Nationalists in their primary position on Formosa and on the offshore island of Quemoy.

Fire Damages Sargo

There had been "no special acceleration," the spokesman said, but the Nationalist forces already had been provided with "modern weapons and equipment in quantity" under terms of the military assistance program.

Actually, the size of the operating fleet in the Pacific is reduced by at least one important unit. The nuclear submarine Sargo was damaged by fire at Pearl Harbor earlier this week. The Navy does not plan to send

a replacement while the Sargo undergoes repairs.

The atomic submarine Sea Dragon, now in the Atlantic Fleet and based at New London, Conn., is scheduled to join the Pacific Fleet about August 1, to work out of Pearl Harbor.

Submarines out of Pearl Harbor, including the nuclear submarine Swordfish, go on patrol in the 7th Fleet area of the Western Pacific. The Sea Dragon's assignment to the Pacific was made several weeks before the fire aboard the Sargo.

The nuclear submarines, especially valuable against other submarines, are important components in the Pacific Fleet. Estimates are that as many as 100 Communist submarines may be

deployed in the Pacific.

In the first business session today the more than 160 officials from the Pentagon and overseas commands heard secret summaries on military, diplomatic, and technical developments at home and around the world.

A top-ranking Central Intelligence Agency official, Gen. C. P. Cabell, gave the conferees a condensed account of what his organization knew of trends and possibilities in the Communist empire.

Raymond A. Hare, Deputy Under Secretary of State, presented the country's foreign policy—a topic presumably embracing some of the complications that have arisen in the wake of the summit failure, the U-2 incident and the turmoil in Japan.