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U. S. to Aid Aggression Victim

White House, State Act Quickly in Mideast Crisis

CPYRGHT By Murrey Marder
Staff Reporter

Official Washington spun into action on a crash basis yesterday over the jolting news of the Israeli march into Egypt.

At the State Department, word of the attack came as Israeli Ambassador Abba Eban was conferring with Assistant Secretary of State William M. Rountree over President Eisenhower's weekend warnings on the Israeli troop mobilization.

The Israeli-Egyptian crisis caused a quick shift of top foreign policy focus away from the Polish-Hungarian developments, which had been buoyantly watched as a major crisis for Russia.

By contrast, the Middle East news was very grim for American diplomats. It also posed a practical problem for politicians, with the presidential election only a week away and demands for aid to Israel a factor in many urban areas.

Secretary John Foster Dulles, in-between a rush round of sessions with foreign diplomats, conferred by radio-telephone with the President at Richmond, where the Chief Executive was completing a one-day flying campaign trip into the South.

Emergency Meeting

An emergency White House night meeting of top diplomatic, military and intelligence chiefs was arranged. It began at 7:20 p. m., as soon as the President got back to the White House after landing at National Airport.

At 8:15, the President and his ranking officials came out briefly to pose on the White House steps for photographers, with a crisis atmosphere over the scene. The group then returned to the talks in the Chief Executive's second floor study.

Ninety minutes after the session had begun, White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty announced that the United States will back its pledge to aid any victim of aggression in the Middle East.

Others at the emergency conference in addition to Dulles and Hagerty were Undersecretary of State Herbert Hoover Jr., Adm. Arthur W. Radford,

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Sherman Adams, chief assistant to the President; Wilton B. Persons, deputy assistant, and Col. Andrew Goodpaster, White House staff secretary.

None was available to comment to newsmen on the statement which Hagerty read before tense newsmen and photographer jammed in his office.

Asked if the Israeli-Egyptian crisis would alter the President's campaign plans, Hagerty replied, "We haven't even thought about it—I'll let you know tomorrow."

In the Middle East, many Americans heeding the President's warning to evacuate the area unless their presence is absolutely necessary rushed out of the tension-ridden sector. Groups flown out of Amman, the Jordanian capital, on a shuttle air run by Embassy-chartered planes, were arriving at Beirut, Lebanon.

Extra Aircraft

"I left even the silverware on the table," the United Press quoted Mrs. Ernest Martinson, the wife of a Point Four employe, who said, "We had 10 minutes warning" to leave.

In Cairo, United States Embassy employes visited all "non-essential" American personnel, urging them to leave, and scheduled extra aircraft to transport them.

The Navy Department here last night said, in response to inquiries, that the United States fleet is in the Eastern Mediterranean, ready for any eventuality. It includes two aircraft carriers, the Coral Sea and Randolph; two cruisers, about 24 destroyers and 20,000 men including reinforced Marine battalion of 1700 men.

In London it was reported that a powerful British naval task force is steaming toward the crisis area, and British Minister Sir Anthony Eden said British paratroop units are alert at their bases.

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