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# Washington Merry-Go- Round

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(The author of this column is given the widest latitude. His views do not necessarily reflect those of THE MIRROR.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.— Here is the inside story of the greatest war scare Washington has witnessed since Pearl Harbor.

It took place early last week following receipt of a blunt warning from Russia threatening to use force against England and France if they did not get out of Suez. This caused the following chain reaction:

1—All U. S. atomic bomber units were put on the alert.

2—Warships were dispersed so as not to be targets for another Pearl Harbor.

3—Amphibian training maneuvers off the southern Atlantic coast were canceled and the airplane carriers Forrestal, Saratoga, and other key ships were prepared for action.

4—An emergency meeting called at the White House worked late into Monday night trying to decide whether Russia was serious about its threat to use force, including rockets, against England, to halt war in the Near East.

Acting Secretary of State Herbert Hoover was the most worried of all. He had reports that 150 out of 300 Russian divisions were on the ready-alert, that the borders of Poland had been sealed, that Russian troops had poured into Hungary, making a total of 100,000 Russian troops in that little country.

Extra troops were necessary because Red army units already inside Hungary had refused to fire on Hungarian rebels. First the Kremlin pulled four divisions out of Roumania to enter Hungary, but when rebellion smoldered in Roumania, they were rushed back, and four new divisions were sent direct from Russia.

American intelligence also reported that the Red army in Hungary was under the personal command of President Eisenhower's war time friend, Marshal Zhukov, though he was under orders from the Kremlin. Those in control in the Kremlin appeared to be Anastas Mikoyan and a new figure, Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Soviet Presidium.

British intelligence also reported that they had destroyed a large number of Russian MIGs recently arrived in Egypt. One British report put the number at 35, another at 48. The British also reported they had sighted some Soviet Bisons on Oct. 30, flying

## COMIC DICTIONARY

**Personnel Manager:** One who proves he is smarter than others by hiring others who are smarter than he is.

over Egypt. This is the huge new Russian jet bomber, equivalent to our B-52.

All this sent the jitters through top American leaders.

At the emergency White House meeting, however, Allan Dulles, head of Central Intelligence and younger brother of John Dulles, calmed official fears.

He reported that Russian policies in the satellite countries had backfired so disastrously that the Kremlin was trying to save face by waving the big stick in other areas. He argued, that Red army leaders were too realistic to start an atomic war.

Other calming factors were also noted. It was found that the text of the Russian ultimatum to England and France was not as tough as the version aired over the Moscow radio. Assurances were also given by the Kremlin to U.S.

diplomats in Moscow that Khrushchev and Bulganin were still in control and that their conciliatory anti-Stalin policies toward the west had not changed. Suslov also made a speech which, though rough on Hungary and the Near East, was considered moderate as far as the west was concerned.

While some of these factors eased the tense atmosphere of the White House emergency meeting, Dulles agreed that it would be safer if the British and French arranged a cease-fire.

French reaction was negative. Mollet wasn't at all worried by the Russian threat. He branded it a big bluff. He was bitterly opposed to any calling off of the Egyptian war and wanted to march into Cairo and hang Colonel Nasser to a lamppost. Finally, however, he agreed to a cease-fire.

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