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Middle East Development

The conviction appears to be growing that any viable political settlement in the Middle East must be tied in with—or even rest upon—a broad regional development program there. U. S. diplomats, casting about for a positive approach in the forthcoming show-down with Soviet Russia, are said to be studying such a plan, though Secretary of State Dulles has shown no great enthusiasm for the idea in the past.

For the basic idea, is not new. It keeps reappearing from year to year in a variety of guises. Former President Truman has long championed the idea of area development for the Middle East. In a syndicated article of Feb. 14, 1957, for example, he wrote:

We must realize we cannot achieve a durable peace in the Middle East until we can bring together into close economic cooperation all the nations of that area. We cannot be too soon in tackling this problem. All the nations of the Middle East have common water resources in the Euphrates, the Jordan, and the Nile. If these water resources are fully developed, a flourishing civilization such as existed in ancient days will rise again.

As long ago as December 1950 the United General Assembly voted \$30 million to finance a reintegration program for Palestinian Arab refugees to be administered by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency. The two most ambitious projects called for irrigating the northwestern part of the Sinai Peninsula with Nile River water piped from the Suez Canal and developing the whole Jordan River system.

The Sinai plan was shelved in 1956 when President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt decided that Nile waters could not be spared until the Aswan High Dam had been built. To promote the Jordan project, Eric A. Johnston, acting as a special presidential envoy, made several trips to the Middle East in the years 1953-1955. It foundered over the impossibility of bringing Jordan, Israel, and Syria together to agree on riparian rights.

Then there is the "Italian Middle-Eastern doctrine" proposed by former Foreign Minister Giuseppe Pella when he visited Washington last December. The Italians envisage a new Middle Eastern development fund established by the United States and Western European countries, with the United States contributing the repayments on its Marshall Plan loans. The new Premier, Amintore Fanfani, is reported to have brought up the Pella plan again on his recent visit to this country.

The Middle East of course is divided between "have" and "have-not" nations, and what the "haves" have is oil. Emile M. Bustani, a member of the Lebanese Parliament, and an oil pipeline builder, last Oct. 22 proposed the easing of tensions by making funds from oil profits available to countries that do not produce oil. A close friend of Nasser, Bustani reported that Egypt was willing to have an oil pipeline built from one end of the Suez Canal to the other.

Dr. Ali Amini, Iranian Ambassador to the United States, made a similar proposal last Jan. 31. Iran, unlike Lebanon, is an oil-have nation. Over-all Middle Eastern oil income flows in at the rate of about \$1 billion a year.

Now Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R N.Y.) is proposing that the United States push a "suitably adapted and adequately financed regional development plan" along Marshall Plan lines for the Middle East. And on the other side of the aisle, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D Minn.) asks that we "take the initiative in the U.N. in proposing a Middle East development Agency as an administering body for the mutual pooling of capital and technical aid in the region."

Side Glances



8-16
The people who ordered it called the wedding off, so the baker let me have it for half price!

Waking Up . . . E-E-Yah!



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SEATO Faced By New Challenge

By K. C. THALER
United Press International
LONDON (UPI) — SEATO, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, has been confronted with a severe challenge that may seriously hamper its freedom of action against Communist subversion in the treaty area.

The challenge has come from SEATO's secretary general, Nai Pote Sarasin, who declared subversive activities the responsibility of a member country's own national forces.

Sarasin, a former provisional prime minister of Thailand who is on an official visit to Australia, was reported from Canberra today to have termed political coups a "domestic affair" of the country in which they occur, which could not involve other members.

It appears this interpretation would limit SEATO's right of intervention, for instance, in the event of a Communist-engineered or backed coup in a member country.

The issue has been spotlighted by the recent Baghdad coup which confronted the Baghdad Pact nations with the crucial question of whether or not to intervene in Iraq when a rebel regime overthrew the Feisal government.

The Baghdad nations came to the conclusion at a meeting in London a fortnight ago against intervention because the rebel regime was considered to have the support of the people of Iraq and because it was held to be in full control of the country. Also it at once pledged itself to honor existing international commitments.

Sarasin now reportedly holds the view that a political coup in a SEATO member country, in principle, would not involve other members.

Other member nations could not take action unless they were asked by the threatened government. Even then, they would not be obliged to go to its aid under

Much Ado About Coffee Pot Lid

TULSA, Okla., UPI — A percolator lid disappeared in a Tulsa department store Wednesday and store officials alerted police.

A full search of the large store was planned, but just before police were ready to start the inch-by-inch hunt they arrested Charles West, 18, an employee of the store, and charged him with taking the lid.

West confessed. Store officials whisked the lid away from him and put it in a vault for safekeeping.

Today the lid was back on its percolator, on display in the store.

Too much fuss for a coffee pot lid?

It's valued at \$30,000 and is solid gold with incrusts of rubies and diamonds.

The percolator? It's valued at \$100,000.

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the treaty arrangements, he stated, according to the reports today.

Some observers argued that if, for example, a Communist coup should remove the ruling regime in a SEATO country by a lightning stroke, the "threatened government" would no longer have a chance to invoke SEATO assistance.

There would be, in this interpretation no room for SEATO intervention, even if the ousted regime could have invoked it.

These views have been received with considerable interest in government quarters.

Britain appears to agree with the broad outlines of this interpretation of SEATO's Thai secretary general.

A Foreign Office spokesman let it be understood that he had "no

quarrel" with this viewpoint.

But views within the treaty organization were expected to be divided.

Some of the Western SEATO nations were expected to accept the interpretation only with considerable reservations.

The text of the treaty itself is hazy on this point, according to expert opinion.

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Military Aspects Of Crisis Related

By KINGSBURY SMITH
United Press International
LONDON (UPI) — Reliable sources disclosed today that if Russia had precipitated a major war with the West over the recent Middle East crisis, the American and British strategic air forces would have attempted to wipe out 20 Russian cities with one massive retaliation nuclear attack.

Those 20 Russian cities, including Moscow and Leningrad, are the primary targets for the U. S. and British H-bombers in the event the Soviets should resort to war against the Western Allied powers.

Now that the United States and Britain have relaxed their war-possible alerts and Moscow has announced the end of the Russian army maneuvers on the Turkish frontier, the danger of a world war developing over the Middle East situation is considered in diplomatic and military circles to have passed.

However, it is now apparent that one of the greatest calculated risks of the cold war was involved in the American and British military intervention in the Lebanon.

That risk was based on the assumption of Anglo-American diplomacy that Russia would not precipitate a nuclear war with the West over the Middle East.

Nevertheless, those responsible for the defense of the United States and Great Britain could not be sure how Russia would react. They had to be prepared for any eventuality in those first few days after the American Marines landed in the Lebanon and British paratroopers were flown to Jordan.

That was the reason why the American and British air and naval forces were placed on a war-possible alert basis. It was why the Anglo-American H-bombers were poised to put into instant effect the Strategic Air Command plan that calls for nuclear destruction of Russia's main cities if the rulers of the Kremlin should order any "Pearl Harbor" type sneak attack on the West.

This plan to wipe out with one simultaneous nuclear attack 20 Russian cities is known in Anglo-American military circles as the "great deterrent."

It is on Soviet knowledge of the existence of this plan that American and British military men base their hopes that Russia will not risk war with the West. The more aware the Soviet leaders are of what would happen if they did precipitate war with the West, the better some of the Allied military men think will be the chances for peace.

Moscow's announcement that

Jobless Pay Benefits Boost Income

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The government says Americans' personal income rose to an all-time high last month, but part of the increase ironically came from jobless pay benefits.

An official report yesterday said personal income last month was running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$356,900,000.

The former record was \$352,100,000,000 in August of last year.

Included in the latest rise were jobless benefits which amounted as 20 states granted temporary extensions of payments to the long-term unemployed.

Wages and salaries, a key economic indicator, advanced for the third straight month but still fell short of pre-recession marks.

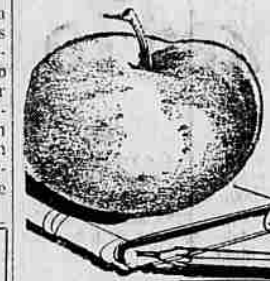
the Soviet army maneuvers on the Turkish frontier had ended was interpreted in Britain as the Kremlin's way of saying that it considered the Middle East crisis ended.

The Manchester Guardian's Russian expert, Victor Zorza, wrote that the announcement must "be intended to convey that the Kremlin is no longer anxious—if it ever was—about the immediate danger to general peace and its own security."

Allied military intelligence sources were inclined to agree that Russia never was worried about its own security in the recent Middle East crisis, and never did have any intention of intervening. Moscow's original announcement about the Soviet army maneuvers on the Turkish frontier was regarded as a propaganda move to frighten the United States and Britain away from allowing King Hussein of Jordan to move into Iraq to restore a pro-Western regime there. There is now some doubt as to whether there were any unusual Soviet military maneuvers.

Of considerable interest to diplomatic observers in London today was the theory advanced in one British paper that Communist China may try to plunge Russia into war with the United States in the hope both countries would destroy one another and leave China the dominant power of the world. That was what Stalin suspected the British of wanting to do with respect to Germany and Russia before the outbreak of World War II.

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