

Small Conflicts Can Be Avoided in Middle East, Johnson Says

Outright war, or a series of smaller conflicts, can be avoided in the Middle East only if the United Nations is strengthened and if the United States and other western powers adopt a straight-forward policy towards the nations of that part of the world.

These were the closing words of Paul B. Johnson, who spoke last night for an open meeting of Medford chapter, Oregon United Nations association.

Johnson, who spent five years in Jordan and in the Gaza Strip with the American Friends' Service committee and the United Nations, had said earlier that the "United States does not have a positive policy for the Middle East." He added that there was a great need for a renegotiation of the positions of strength and of vested interests by the United States and other western powers as concerns the Middle East.

Recent Events

After briefly reviewing recent events concerning Arab states and Israel, the speaker said "it is inadequate to interpret the Middle East in the light of the factors of the present crisis."

He declared that the problems of that part of the world have their origin in century-old factors and added "the problem would still exist if there had never been an Israel."

The fact that two-thirds of the world's supply of oil is in the Middle East, that the Arab states are 20 different political units with little or nothing to tie them together politically but that these units constitute the heart of the Moslem religious world all enter in the complex problem, Johnson stressed.

The Arabs refuse to recognize the fact that Israel exists, the speaker went on to say, and added that the Arab states feel that Israel will expand indefinitely, threatening their very existence.

Efficient, Able

He pointed out that the Jewish people are efficient and able, and that they have made fullest use of technological devices to better their state, while the Arabs are a people frustrated by centuries of living in a desert region where agriculture depends upon a "once-in-five years rainfall, by a belief that it is useless to endeavor to better their state and that fierce hatreds have been created through the failure of the British and other western nations to keep their promises to the Arabs.

The only common factor among the Middle East nations is opposition to the West, Johnson said.

Discussing the Suez canal situation, the speaker said that should it be permanently closed to the ships of the Western world, it would upset the economy of all Europe.

Johnson outlined three major movements now underway in the Middle East. The basic social forms of the Islamic-Arab world, accustomed to centuries of economic scarcity and a backward-looking society, are undergoing drastic change and the people, especially the young, are beginning to realize that change and improvement are possible. Social institutions are inadequate for the problems, and chaos has resulted, the speaker declared.

He pointed out the political instability of countries such as Syria, where there is no responsible government leadership and cabinets change on the average of once in three months. Every nation of the Middle East has known control by the Western powers, but now this imperial control is dying out and "we are reaping the bitter harvest," he declared.

A lively question period followed Johnson's talk. During this time he explained that if Egypt's Nasser did break the Suez treaty, it had already been broken by the British and other powers who, in defiance of the treaty, had closed the canal during both World War I and II.

Making Plans

He added that the Egyptians, "outraged" by their treatment, had long been making plans for nationalization of the canal, which under terms of an agreement made with the canal company would revert to Egypt in 12 years anyway.

Questioned about the role of

Russia, he said it was "one of opportunism" and that the Russians have done nothing to improve the lot of the Middle Eastern peoples. Asked what the policy of this should be toward the Middle East, the speaker declared it should not be one of "making hay with" both the Israelis and the Arabs" when opportunity provided, and not one of tempting the Arabs with vast sums of money.

He said at one point that the rightness or wrongness of the establishment of Israel is not new germane to the issue and that probably the two peoples can exist together peacefully if an answer can be found to their basic psychological problems. He also outlined some of the ways in which the teams of the American Friends' Service committee attempted to introduce new agricultural practices into Jordan.

Johnson was introduced by Lawrence Solin, president of the UN chapter here.

Smith Congratulates Holmes on Victory

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Elmo Smith sent a telegram of congratulation to Governor-elect Robert D. Holmes after Holmes' victory in Tuesday's general election.

He said: "Congratulations on your election as governor. I extend my best wishes to you. In order that the transfer of executive authority be made as smoothly as possible, I would be glad to have you confer with me on the proposed budget program to the 1957 Legislature."

Is That So?

Birds, perhaps the most beautiful of all living creatures, have been grossly maligned by man from time to time, so isn't it time we had another Fact vs. Fallacy on birds?

Fallacy: When confronted with danger the ostrich will hide its head in the sand apparently in the mistaken belief that when he cannot see his danger he feels comforted and secure.

Fact: Contrariwise, the ostrich is a very alert bird with keen



vision and when he thinks danger is present will elevate his head to the utmost to see even better.

Cornered, the ostrich is an indomitable and brave fighter, kicking viciously with its great two-toed feet and has been known to break a man's leg.

Because of its great height—its long neck permits it to elevate its head from seven to nine feet—and its keen vision, it is particularly sensitive to distant threats of danger. Hence zebras and gnus of the African Veldt often accompany these birds the better to achieve their own safety. If the ostrich, in the presence of danger, moves off warily, these "associates" follow its example.

When in full stride, the ostrich can step off 15 feet at a time and make good some 40 miles an hour, thus outdistancing most of its plains' enemies.

Fallacy: Being night birds, owls cannot see in broad daylight.

Fact: Although an owl's large eyes are particularly suited to twilight, moonlight and starlight and they do not like bright sunlight, they can see accurately by day, too.

But even at night time, their marvelously well-developed sense of hearing is perhaps more important in securing game than their sense of sight. Placed in a totally blackened room where they could not possibly see anything, they can catch mice by hearing them scamper about on the floor.

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Ashland Man Hurt When Hit by Car

Dewitt Talmadge Ferguson, 70, 262½ East Main st., Medford, suffered a cut on his left eye and bruises about his body about noon yesterday when he was struck by a car operated by Gilbert Ole Nelson, 651 Wabash ave., Medford, while crossing the street at Riverside ave. and Sixth st., according to Medford police.

He was taken to Rogue Valley Hospital by Medford Ambulance service where hospital attendants this morning said his condition was "good."

The accident happened, according to police, when Nelson turned onto Riverside ave. from Sixth st. where Ferguson was walking. The sidewalk from where Ferguson crossed the street was blocked by a metal bar with a sign hanging on it stating "cross-walk closed," police said.

Federal Health Program Cost Told

Washington — (UPI) — The American Medical Association reported today that the average American family is paying \$54.61 this year for the health and medical programs of the government.

All in all, it said, the government is spending more than \$2.5 billion in the current fiscal year for the care of veterans and servicemen, medical research, Indian health, hospital construction, and dozens of other related programs.

This is \$290 million more than was spent last year. The AMA said it amounts to \$15.17 for every man, woman and child in the country.

It means, the AMA said, that wage earners are spending \$38.72 each for federal health programs, \$4.40 more than they paid last year.

EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Daytime birds, too, have good hearing but they use it chiefly to escape enemies. The birds' hearing, apparently, is not affected by the size of their ear openings which are usually rather small and hidden by head feathers.

Fallacy: The wandering albatross, the largest of any bird, sometimes exceeding 11 feet, has been known to follow ships at sea across oceans.

Fact: Granted the albatross is a tremendous flyer it seldom stays with a ship more than a few days at most. Most naturalists are agreed that the reputed ocean-hopping flights in the wake of a ship are exaggerations and belong in the realm of folklore.

Still, remarkable records remain. For example, an adult albatross banded at Kerguelen, an island in the Indian ocean, in 1914 was retaken three years later near Cape Horn, some 6,000 miles away. But there is no evidence that the bird followed a ship.

Fallacy: The common saying, "you silly goose," has its basis on the fact that the goose is a stupid bird.

Fact: Careful observation indicates that most species of geese are above the average intelligence as birds go. In the face of danger, they are resourceful—avoiding it whenever possible, and against smaller enemies do not hesitate to attack with their formidable weapons, bill and wings.

Early Romans prized them highly and considered them sacred birds. In fact, there is a famous legend that the honking of sacred geese aroused the garrison on the Capitoline Hill during an invasion of Rome by the Gauls in 390 B.C. Thereafter, the Romans held a yearly procession that featured a golden goose.

Fallacy: The famous colony of cliff swallows which has nested for years at the Mission of San Capistrano, Calif., reappear each spring with on-the-day regularity.

Fact: Although their arrival is fairly constant year after year, weather changes can and do affect their schedules. Perhaps that resulted in the proverb which says: "One swallow does not make a summer."

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Military Officials Doubt Russia Plans To Start War III

Washington — (UPI) — U.S. military officials are frankly concerned about recent warlike moves by Russia, but they doubt the Soviets intend to turn the present international crisis into World War III.

These authorities cited two major points to support their doubt:

The Reds apparently have refrained from poisoning their long-range air force at forward bases from which the United States could be reached or from making other gestures with their big bombers.

Most Serious Problem

A breakdown in the Soviet satellite system is the most serious problem facing the Kremlin now, and military maneuvers most probably are aimed at deterring further uprisings in Eastern Europe.

Military men emphasized no one can be certain at this stage of Russia's intentions. U.S. defense chiefs, therefore, are on guard against the worst.

But the best estimate, according to a number of authorities consulted, is that the Russians are gearing their forces to put down satellite unrest rather than to precipitate a general war.

Dempsey's Former Sparring Mate Dies

Tyler, Tex. — (UPI) — Bobby Manziel, who started as a boot-black and sparring partner of former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey and became a multimillionaire oilman, died today after a sudden illness. He was 59 years old.

Manziel, who lived in Tyler, became wealthy as an independent operator in the East Texas oilfields. He was almost down to his last penny when he made his first rich strike.

Recently he and Dempsey, his partner in oil operations, started construction of a mammoth sports coliseum here, designed to seat 22,000 persons.

New Feeder Service To Salem Suggested

Salem — (UPI) — The State Board of Aeronautics decided yesterday that it would recommend additional feeder line service proposed by West Coast and Southwest Airlines for Salem, plus retention of present United Air Lines service.

Earl Snyder, director of the board, said a letter would be sent to the Civil Aeronautics Board with the recommendations.

West Coast has asked to establish one run, including Salem, Redmond and Klamath Falls and another run from Klamath Falls to Boise with stops at Lakeview and Burns. Southwest has asked the CAB to allow it to provide services to Klamath Falls, Redmond, Salem and Portland, and Crescent City to Salem and Portland.

Snyder said he believed that Salem, as a major city in Oregon, should have the benefit of services of the three lines.

Army Board Recedes Collaboration Hearing

San Francisco — (UPI) — An Army Board of inquiry Thursday recessed until next Tuesday a hearing into whether Lt. Col. Paul V. Liles, convicted of collaborating with the enemy in North Korea, should be retained in the service.

The 40-year-old West Pointer previously was convicted of two counts of collaboration by a Fort Lewis, Wash., court martial. He was suspended from the promotion listing for two years and forbidden to command troops.

The presidio board of three general officers ordered the recess to permit Liles' counsel, Lt. Col. Leslie E. Dixon, to read trial documents not previously available to him.

Britain Protests Russ Demonstrations

London — (UPI) — Britain protested strongly today to Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik against recent "organized" demonstrations against the British Embassy in Moscow.

A government announcement

Stassen Sees 'Serious Weakness' In GOP; Rebuilding Said Needed

Washington — (UPI) — Presidential disarmament adviser Harold E. Stassen, the man who tried to dump Vice President Richard M. Nixon from the GOP ticket, said today that the election results revealed a "serious weakness" in the Republican Party.

He said this was evident in the GOP loss of both Houses of Congress and a number of governorships even though President Eisenhower won a landslide popular vote.

Refuses To Blame Nixon

Stassen refused to say whether he blamed the Republican loss of Congress on Nixon. But in an interview with the United Press he said:

"The election results clearly show, on the one hand, the tremendous popular support for President Eisenhower and his policies, and on the other hand, serious weakness of our Republican Party in losing both Houses of Congress and a number of governorships even though it had the advantage of the President's great vote."

"Our Republican Party must rebuild its strength, particularly in the ranks of organized labor, the small businessman and the family farmer. This is essential if the Republican Party is to become a majority party in the United States in the years ahead. "It should be possible to do this because millions of these citizens have indicated by their votes that they approve of President Eisenhower and his program even though he ran under the Republican label."

The presidential adviser balked at discussing Nixon's influence on the election outcome on grounds it would not be "constructive for me to go over the past situation."

He said he is getting along well now with Nixon and other members of the administration. So far, he said, there has been

said Malik was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning.

Lord Reading, the minister of state, "strongly protested to him against the mass demonstrations organized against the British Embassy in Moscow on Nov. 7," the announcement said.

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Magsaysay May Ask MacArthur's Choice

Manila — (UPI) — President Ramon Magsaysay may request the appointment of Gen. Douglas MacArthur as United States ambassador to the Philippines, it was reported today.

Sources close to President Magsaysay told United Press the Philippines chief executive was seriously considering making such a request.

The former ambassador to the Philippines, popular Spanish-speaking Albert F. Nufer, died unexpectedly in Manila last Tuesday. His body was flown today to Havana, Cuba, for burial.

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