

# Civil Defense Regional Offices Quietly Placed on 24-Hour Alert

Washington—(UP)—Since the Middle East crisis developed the Civil Defense Administration has quietly placed its seven regional offices on 24-hour alert. It is now working around the clock in case the tense situation explodes into global war.

Val Peterson, civil defense administrator, told the United Press, "Like any prudent person in a period of tension, we are making a close check to see if any improvements in plans can be made."

Peterson said the national civil defense headquarters is always on 24-hour duty to alert the nation in event of an enemy attack or a natural disaster. Last week the regional offices also were placed on 24-hour duty.

The national agency has also joined with civil defense organizations at the state and city level in "doing all that is possible to see that their organizations are ready for any eventuality," Peterson said.

At the national level there is a standard operation procedure for disaster which will be placed into effect only at the call of the President. This will be if the United States is attacked or an attack is imminent.

But in the "period of tension," national headquarters, in addition to alerting the regional offices and coordinating plans with local organizations, has studying the location of tremendous stockpiles of food, medical and other supplies, and ways to move them.

Civil defense has about 50 persons working at the national level here. There also is a classified operation outside the city on 24-hour duty. In Battle Creek, Mich., another 700 civil defense workers are on alert and can go into underground headquarters "at a moment's notice," Peterson said.

Civil defense also is tied into close operation with the Air Force to get first knowledge of any imminent attack.

In event of an attack or a warning it would be up to local authorities to put evacuation plans into effect. Some cities have complete plans and others do not, Peterson said. He had particular praise for a new plan worked out in San Francisco.

The extent of the evacuation problem will hinge around the warning time. But after a city is bombed, Peterson said, it would be better to take shelter than to try to run, because of radioactive fallout.

And, just how ready is civil defense to meet a hydrogen bomb attack?

Peterson said "No one in the world is ready for a thermonuclear attack—no one in any complete sense. We can and must do a better job, but the most important thing is for the world to have an honorable peace."

But Peterson took issue with critics who claim the present civil defense program is useless. He said it has trained thousands of people, created emergency stockpiles and that every state and city has some civil defense.

Many of the inadequacies of civil defense, Peterson said, lie in the size of the problem; the newness of it, small expenditures, and the fact that it is using volunteers. But, he said, much progress has been made.

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## Communist Grip On Hawaiian Isles Seen Disastrous

Washington—(UP)—A former top naval strategist has warned that "communist domination of the Hawaiian islands could spell irretrievable disaster to the United States" if the Communists continue to advance in Asia.

The statement was made by Adm. Charles M. Cooke (ret.) in a letter to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The subcommittee made the letter public yesterday.

Opinion Asked

The subcommittee, beginning an investigation of Communism in Hawaii, asked for Cooke's views on the strategic military importance of Hawaii and the effect on national security of Communist control of the territory. Cooke was a top Navy strategic commander during World War II.

If the Communists are able to carry out their objective of controlling all of East Asia, Cooke said, they "must succeed in controlling sea communications along the east coast of Asia south to Southeast Asia, Indonesia and the entrances to the Indian Ocean."

If the Free World is to prevent this, "it must be in a strategic position to bring to bear naval power and air power against Communist aggressive use of the sea communications in this area," he said.

Could Spell Disaster

Cooke said "it goes without saying that if Communist power continues to advance in Southeast Asia and in the Pacific, if it succeeds in bringing Formosa into Communist control and Japan into the Communist orbit, then Communist domination of the Hawaiian Islands could spell irretrievable disaster to the United States."

The subcommittee expects to open hearings in Honolulu about Nov. 30 with Gov. Samuel Wilder Kink as the first witness.

## California Gaining In Population Race With New York State

Washington—(UP)—California's population is increasing so rapidly that by 1965 it may be in a neck-and-neck race with New York for national leadership, the census bureau reported today.

The Golden State, between the 1950 census and last July 1, picked up 2,846,000 persons for a total population of 13,433,000 New York State, which gained 1,365,000 in the comparable period, holds the population title with 16,195,000.

But, the Bureau said, California's continued heavy growth is closing the gap, it might possibly catch New York by 1965 when each state is expected to have about 18 million population.

Faster Gain

Florida, Nevada and Arizona, though much smaller, are growing at a faster pace than the leaders. Florida's population as of July 1 was estimated at 3,770,000, a 36 per cent increase, or 998,000 persons, since 1950. The bureau said the rise appears to be heading the sunshine state into its greatest decade of growth. Her biggest 10-year in-

crease was 51.6 per cent in 1920-1930.

Nevada's July population was estimated at 247,000, a gain of 87,000, of 54.6 per cent, since 1950. This was the biggest percentage rise for any state. It compared with a 93.4 per cent decade.

Arizona's gain of 308,000, or 41 per cent, put its estimated population at 1,057,000. This also put Arizona over the 1 million mark for the first time, leaving only 13 states and the district of Columbia with less than 1-million residents.

Others Gain Million

Besides California, four states, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Texas, have gained more than 1 million since the 1950 census. New York's growth was second to California's followed by Texas' 1,214,000, Ohio's 1,150,000 and Michigan's 1,144,000.

Only Mississippi, Vermont, Arkansas, Maine and West Virginia are estimated to have suffered losses.

Here is a record of Western States showing the estimated population changes since April, 1950.

STATE	JULY 1, 1956	APRIL 1, 1950	(Number)	(Per Cent)
United States	167,191,000	130,697,261	36,493,739	27.9
California	13,433,000	10,587,000	2,846,000	26.9
Arizona	1,057,000	749,000	308,000	41.0
Nevada	247,000	160,000	87,000	54.4
Florida	3,770,000	2,772,000	998,000	36.0
Montana	638,000	591,024	47,000	8.0
Idaho	247,000	190,823	56,000	29.4
Oregon	1,718,000	1,521,341	196,000	12.9
Utah	812,000	688,802	123,000	17.9

## Pedestrians Urged To Exercise Care

Police Chief Charles Champlin today cautioned pedestrians to be especially watchful of vehicles making turns before crossing streets.

In the past nine months, four pedestrians have been injured in Medford at intersections where cars have been turning.

Obeys Signals

The police chief also emphasized the danger in suddenly stepping into the street even though the signal light may have changed to allow pedestrians to cross. If a car has started to turn it is not always possible for the vehicle to stop in time to avoid an accident, he said.

Champlin also urged pedestrians to obey signals and cross only at intersections. Of the 14 traffic accidents involving pedestrians in Medford between January and November of this year, two pedestrians were crossing against the signal and three were crossing in mid-block.

National Report

On the national level, the National Safety Council points out that of all pedestrians struck by cars at intersections where signals were operating, half were crossing against the signal. Of all pedestrian traffic accidents, the greatest number occurred when pedestrians were crossing in mid-block.

Champlin made a special appeal for cooperation of Medford residents in the National Safety Council's November pedestrian safety campaign.

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