

Middle East Problems, Ike's Policy Are Discussed for Decisions Program

(Editor's note: This is another in a series on the "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program now being held throughout the state and country. Today's discussion centers around the Middle East, including President Eisenhower's new foreign policy for that area.)

Until recently, Russia's attention has been centered on Egypt, which with its armed force of over 100,000 men is the strongest of the Middle Eastern states apart from Turkey and Iran.

In the past year, however, Syria has been offered—and has accepted—Russian military and economic aid.

Estimates on the amount of

which has been dubbed the "Eisenhower doctrine." The policy calls for the President and Congress to join in announcing expanded U.S. economic aid, military aid to Middle Eastern countries wanting it, and the use of U.S. troops to stop Communist military aggression, if necessary and if the countries affected request it.

As President Eisenhower took office, United States actions would be "consonant" with U.S. treaty obligations and the UN charter. In case of military action, he said, our policy would be "subject to the overriding authority of the United Nations security council."

Arab reactions to the President's plan have been mixed. Foreign Minister Charles Malik of Lebanon hailed the proposal as a step to "fill the vacuum of power" in the Middle East, and as "serving the cause of peace and security."

Rejects Theory

Syria, however, rejected the "theory of the power vacuum" and denied there is any "international Communist threat" against the safety and independence of Syria.

After two weeks of moderate Syrian press took up the Syrian argument and also denounced the plan. King Hussein of Jordan and the governments of Iran and Iraq expressed cautious approval.

The economic side of the plan, rather than the military, raised the most favorable comment.

Congressional leaders have called for a full debate on the President's request, and the arguments for and against it are being heard in both houses of Congress.

Senators, Congressmen and political observers are weighing future U.S. moves in the Middle East in terms of their effect on the UN, and the Western alliance, their cost, and relationship to other basic problems of the Middle East.

Emergency Force

These questions include whether strengthening and establishment of a permanent UN emergency force is necessary, or whether independent U.S. action would weaken the UN; now far the United States can go in co-operation with the Western alliance without losing prestige in the Arab world, and vice versa; how well the American taxpayer can foot the bill for increased economic aid, and how an effective use of aid funds be insured, and how the program will affect the basic Middle East problems of the Suez canal and the Arab-Israeli dispute. For example, they ask, will U.S. military aid to Middle Eastern countries merely speed up the Arab-Israeli arms race?

Most commentators believe the President's proposal will be approved by Congress. These, however, are some of the issues being raised in the current debate.

RUSSIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"Russia's rulers have long sought to dominate the Middle East," President Dwight D. Eisenhower told Congress Jan. 6.

This was true long before the advent of Communism. For centuries, even under the Turks, Russia has been interested in the eastern Mediterranean. Russia and Turkey fought 13 wars for control of the Dardanelles straits, leading from the Black sea to the Mediterranean.

In the years following World War II, Russia wanted military bases in the Dardanelles, on Turkish soil. Russia also demanded trusteeship over the former Italian colony of Libya (now independent), and applied military pressure on Iran in an attempt to set up a Communist state in the northern part of that country.

Checked by Pressure

Each of these ambitions was checked by the pressure of world opinion, free world efforts of UN mediation.

A new Russian objective, it is now believed, began in the spring of 1955, when a Russian official publication came out with praise of the Egyptian revolutionary government now headed by Gamal Abdel Nasser. Before April, 1955, the Soviets had been blasting the Egyptian regime as "madly reactionary, terrorist, anti-democratic and fanatical."

Shortly after this party several Russian cultural and sports missions were sent to Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. Trade picked up. In 1953-54 Russia bought about 9 per cent of Egypt's cotton crop; in 1955 Russia contracted for 15-20 per cent of this same crop export.

Barter Deal

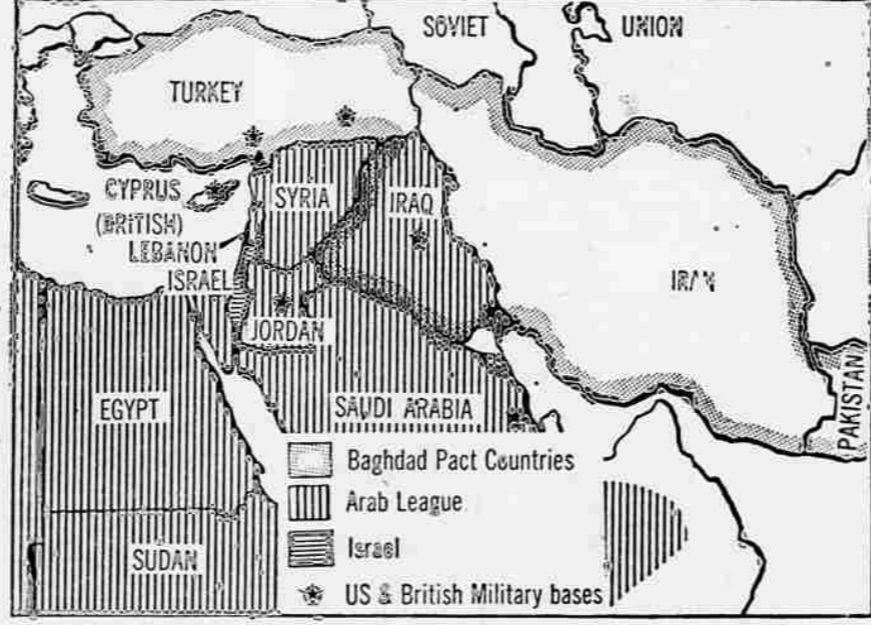
More important, Russia negotiated a barter deal which provided Egypt with Russian military equipment in exchange for cotton and rice.

Egypt had previously tried to buy arms in the United States, but was told it would have to pay for them in dollars. The barter deal was a breakthrough. The deal with Russia has not been finalized, but some estimates put the value as high as \$425,000,000. With the arms comes an estimated 1000 Russian technicians and instructors now believed to be in Egypt.

In spite of its co-operation with Russia, however, Egypt severely restricts Communist party activity within the country.

On the political side, Russia openly supported the Arab states in the dispute with Israel, even though Russia had voted in the UN in 1947 for the creation of Israel.

Russia, according to President Eisenhower, is "manipulating" divisions and conflicts in the Middle East to the diplomatic advantage of the Communist world. The technique is not much different, some students of the area feel, from Anglo-French "manipulations" of these same rivalries in the past. But the results can be disastrous to the West, because Russia is a hostile power.



PROBLEMS DISCUSSED—The "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program this week centers around the Middle East problems, including President Eisenhower's new foreign policy in that area. Shown above are the countries which are discussed in today's article, showing the relative closeness of Soviet Russia and U. S. and British bases.

Radio and television broadcasts in the "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program will be at 9 p.m. Sunday on station KMED, at 9:15 p.m. Sunday on station KWIN, Ashland; and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday on KBES-TV.

Observers are speculating whether shipments of Russian arms to Egypt and Syria are intended for use by local armies or by Russian "volunteers" of the future.

Syria is only 230 air miles from the Russian border. Its chief economic importance to the West is the number of important oil lines (principally from Iraq) running through Syrian territory.

A French-administered mandate until 1946, Syria has since undergone five different revolutions, most of them instigated by military cliques. It is currently believed that 31-year-old Lt. Col. Abdel Hamid Serraj, chief of army intelligence and head of the secret police, has a powerful pro-Russian influence in the Syrian government.

Principal Export

An important economic base for Syrian political unrest may be that, like Egypt, Syria's principal export crop is cotton. And, like Egypt, Syria has had difficulty selling its cotton in competition with the U.S. and other cotton-producing countries of a shaky world market.

Syria's rapidly growing population—now 4,000,000—also suffers from "underemployment." There are more educated and trained workers than there are jobs. French health and educational measures, before 1946, greatly improved health conditions and educational standards. But the emphasis was on the professions, law and liberal arts, rather than on farming, engineering and other skills Syria needs to develop.

Consequently there is a large, educated and restless class of Syrians who appear to be strongly nationalistic and vigorously anti-Western.

Capitalism on Unrest

Russia capitalizes on this unrest by trading Russian arms for Syrian cotton, by encouraging Syrian nationalism and by pouring friendship and economic assistance.

Syria has been described as a country ripe for a Communist coup from within. The question thus arises whether Syria might, under a Communist government, launch aggression of its own in the Middle East.

Almost unanimously, U.S. political leaders agree that the United States needs a new approach to the Middle East to prevent the spread of Communist influence. But they differ as to the form this approach should take.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, addressing a joint session of Congress Jan. 6, warned that if the nations of the Middle East "were dominated by alien forces hostile to freedom, that would be both a tragedy for the area and for many other free nations whose economic life would be subject to new strangulation."

"Western Europe would be endangered just as though there had been no Marshall plan, no North Atlantic Treaty Organization," the president asserted. Western Europe gets 80 per cent of its oil from Arab oil fields.

Serious Jeopardy

"The free nations of Asia and Africa, too, would be placed in serious jeopardy," Eisenhower continued. These countries need both Middle Eastern oil and free transit through the Suez canal, through which are shipped Asia's exports of raw materials to Europe and its imports of Western European manufactured goods.

To avoid this situation, the President proposed a new policy,

Two-Thirds of Oregon Counties Taking Part In Decisions Program

Corvallis—Two-thirds of Oregon counties this week reported participation in the state's expanded "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program in world affairs, sponsoring organizations have announced.

The eight-week program, designed to build informed public opinion on key foreign policy issues, is going into its second week with informal discussion groups now meeting in 24 counties. More than 80 Oregon newspapers and radio and television stations are participating. Schools in 20 counties are studying Great Decisions issues.

Pioneered in urban centers of Oregon in 1955, Great Decisions has now spread to other cities throughout the country.

Successes First

Oregon checked up another "first" this year by making this program available to all areas of the state. It is sponsored by Oregon State college extension service in cooperation with the Foreign Policy association, general extension division of the state system of higher education and other organizations and agencies.

Mrs. Maud Walker, OSC extension specialist in public development, said interested persons may still join the program by forming small, informal discussion groups or by joining existing groups. Names of local chairmen may be obtained from the county extension service office.

Forty-three Oregon newspapers, 33 radio stations, and 7 television stations are now carrying discussions of the selected eight foreign policy issues or are joining in local promotion of the series.

Background Material

Background material on issues is also available from fact sheets prepared by the Foreign Policy association, a non-governmental, non-profit, educational organization.

Mrs. Walker reported 3,000 sets of fact sheets have been distributed throughout Oregon by the Institute of International Affairs, general extension division, 1620 S.W. Park ave., Portland. Sources of local supplies, if available, may be obtained through the county extension office.

Other aids to Great Decisions discussions include a special set of motion picture films available to all counties. Key films on the eight issues are also being circulated among counties through the county extension offices.

Artificial Dentures Needed By Half the People Over 40

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles furnished by the American Dental Association through the Southern Oregon District Dental Society discussing dental disease. The series is being published in cooperation with the Society in observance of National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 3 through 9.)

Toothbrush Use

1. Proper use of the toothbrush immediately after eating.
2. Emphasis on proper diet, especially the avoidance of snacks of sweet foods between meals.
3. Periodic dental examinations to detect and prevent early dental disease.
4. Water fluoridation to prevent about 60 per cent of dental decay that might otherwise occur.

The fact is that the child's second teeth are designed to last a lifetime. Barring exceptional cases, they can and will last a lifetime if proper attention is given to the young child's dental health from the beginning.

Dentures are designed to last a lifetime. Yet about half the population more than 40 years old live or needs artificial dentures. In a country with the finest dental health is scarcely a candidate for honors since:

Almost all persons suffer from dental disease at some time during their lives.

Dental decay is the nation's most prevalent disease.

Twenty-five per cent of U.S. children are afflicted at some time with malocclusion—severe deforming irregularities of the teeth.

Among adults, the greatest single cause of loss of teeth is periodontal disease, so-called pyorrhea.

Frontal Attack

The weapons are at hand for a frontal attack on the major dental diseases. Dentists assert that the enormous problem of dental disease could be cut down to size if these weapons were put to use on a wide scale.

The key lies in prevention. Prevention against dental disease, beginning at an early age, dentists agree, is the most practical approach to curtailing the vast disease toll.

They point out that, except for some unusual reason, the right dental health habits, started early in life, should result in sound and healthy teeth that will last a lifetime.

In a message for Children's Dental Health Week, dentists set out this four-way program for children as the most effective means for maintaining good dental health:

Safety Council Encourages Traffic Sign Observance

"Support your traffic officials and join in the 'Attack' on traffic accidents!"

This was the appeal issued today by Aubrey Loper, president of the Medford Safety Council in conjunction with this month's traffic safety program sponsored by the Medford Safety Council and the National Safety Council.

Loper explained that his organization is conducting a continued campaign to encourage recognition and observance of all traffic signs.

"These traffic signs are called 'Signs of Life,' and observance of them will help reduce accidents and thus save lives," he said.

The Signs of Life program is one phase of the year-long "Attack on Traffic Accidents" campaign now in progress on a nationwide scale," Loper explained.

He pointed out that the "Attack on Traffic Accidents" program has three phases—improvement of individual driving and pedestrian behavior, support for traffic officials and cooperation with and support of local safety organizations.

"Strict observance of all traffic laws, including those related to signs, signals and pavement markings, is the basis of safe driving and walking behavior," Loper said.

Staff Changes Made At National Park

Two changes have been named in the staff at Crater Lake National park, according to Tom Williams, superintendent.

Jeff Adams, 36, recently of Mt. McKinley National park, Alaska, will assume his duties this week at Crater Lake as maintenance supervisor. The position recently was created. The new position is the result of the expanding needs created by the Mission 66 program, Williams said.

Adams will supervise maintenance of roads, utilities, trails and buildings. He has also had work experience at Yosemite and Sequoia National parks. He joined the Mt. McKinley staff as a maintenance foreman in 1951.

Adams is married and has a three-year-old daughter. He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945.

Williams also announced that Earl H. Jones, 39, equipment operator at Crater Lake since 1952, is leaving his post to go into private business.

Jones is married and has two daughters. He served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. His replacement will be announced later.

Sacramento Boys Arrested in Ashland

Two Sacramento, Calif., boys, ages 15 and 16, were arrested by Ashland police Thursday night and lodged in the county jail in connection with the theft of a 1955 Chevrolet from Sacramento, it was reported Friday.

Police officers said they approached the boys in an Ashland car lot, where they allegedly were attempting to siphon gasoline. According to police, the boys admitted stealing the auto in Sacramento and driving it until the gasoline supply became depleted in Ashland.

Wahlquist Joins Ashland Tidings

Ashland—A new city editor has been announced by the Ashland Daily Tidings. Taking over the position is Don Wahlquist, recently from San Jose, Calif.

Wahlquist is replacing Lloyd Rogers who has been in charge of the newsroom since October, 1955. Rogers has accepted a position on the Roseburg News Review.

The new city editor entered journalism as a news photographer for the Salt Lake Telegram. After serving in the infantry during World War II, he founded and edited the Occupation Chronicle for the Army's European headquarters.

He was educated at San Jose State college and at the Universities of Minnesota, Utah and Indiana.

Air Reserve Center Changes Location

The Medford air reserve center, which includes the 9091 Air Reserve group and 9417 Air Reserve squadron, recently moved from the federal building, 33 North Riverside ave., to 214 East Main st.

The new quarters have 3,500 square feet of office and classroom space. The air reserve center has four offices which double as classrooms, two assembly halls and two conference-type classrooms.

The center changed location because of growth in the unit, officers said. Strength of the squadron of Medford men is about 80.

Pay training for officers will start Feb. 1. Pay for non-commissioned officers has been in effect since last September.

An open house for the new air reserve center will be held later.

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Incorporation Articles Filed by Local Company

Salem—Articles of incorporation were filed here recently for the Southern Oregon Trailer Mart, 3424 North Pacific highway, Medford.

They were signed by George F. Davis, Ray E. Abbott and W. Keith Bates. Officers will be Abbott, president; Davis, vice president; and Bates, secretary-treasurer.

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