

United States at Brink of War at Least Twice in Last Twelve Months

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The United States stood at the brink of war at least twice in 1958—once in Lebanon, and again in the narrow Formosa Strait.

But the audacity of brinkmanship and the fear of massive retaliation—twin offspring of a world wed to an intercontinental missile—localized each crisis and preserved an uneasy world peace.

Even so, men and governments died in varying degrees of violence.

And as 1958 ran its course, the world could see the outline of things to come in 1959.

A chief pressure point is certain to be Berlin. Berlin, isolated more than 100 miles inside East Germany, is the West's window through the Iron Curtain. For the millions of persons sealed behind the Iron Curtain it also is a window on the West.

Propaganda Fails

Not all the millions of words of Communist propagandists have been able to erase the picture of bright lights and prosperity in West Berlin as compared to the wreckage and poverty of the eastern half of the city. The Communists have declared that the window must be blinded in 1959.

In 1958, King Faisal of Iraq made a desperate dash from

his palace to escape invading revolutionaries. He died close to the burned out remnants of his favorite racing car in the palace courtyard. Mobs dragged the body of his uncle through the streets of Baghdad. But by Mid-East standards, it was a fairly bloodless coup.

The government of Finland fell, victim of economic pressure from Russia.

But there were stabilizing factors in the world, too.

Britain's economy improved under pressure of a governmental austerity program. In fact, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's Conservative Party was beginning to believe it could win the next general election.

The Cross of Lorraine rose over France.

Gen. Charles de Gaulle, who quit French politics in disgust shortly after World War II, offered to return and restore France to its former place of greatness.

The cream of the French army was in Algeria fighting a war that never ended, that cost the French around \$3,000,000 per day and which the French Assembly, lost in a jungle of conflicting political parties, was powerless to resolve.

With Metropolitan France itself on the brink of civil war, de Gaulle returned, armed with greater power than held by any single man in France since Napoleon.

The end of 1958 found France with a new constitution. The French president had powers similar to those held by the President of the United States, and the capricious Assembly no longer had it in its power to topple French governments at will.

But the problem of Algeria remained. It also was part of the outline of things to come in 1959.

For the United States, 1958 was a year of increasing realization of its place as a world power.

Not by choice but by necessity, almost against its will, the United States had taken its place as leader of the free world.

The abortive Anglo-French attack on Suez had demonstrated that no nation outside of the Iron Curtain could undertake a major military operation with any hope of success without the support of the United States. Equally, it was true that no free nation could be assured of continued freedom without U.S. support.

Thus, on July 15, 1958, U.S. troops landed in Lebanon.

And on July 16, in a supporting action, British troops landed in Jordan.

Repercussions were immediate.

Russia demanded that the U.N. order the U.S. and British troops out of the Middle East. The demand was rejected.

At the same time, Soviet armed forces began maneuvers near Iran and Turkey and in the Black Sea. Bulgarian forces began maneuvers with Soviet air support near Turkey and Yugoslavia. In Moscow, demonstrators damaged the U.S. embassy in Moscow and British military missions in Potsdam, East Germany.

On Oct. 1, the last of the U.S. forces left Lebanon but only after peace had been restored and Gen. Fouad Chehab had taken over as the legally named president.

Meanwhile, working from inside its great landlocked perimeter extending from the Baltic to the Bering seas, the Communist world was preparing another thrust.

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had urged and then rejected a summit conference among the leaders of the U.S., the U.S.S.R., Britain and France. His rejection came after a hurried conference in Peiping with Red Chinese leader Mao Tse Tung.

Then came the new Communist threat to the Nationalist-held Quemoy and Matsu island groups. The islands, just off the blockaded Red Chinese port of Amoy, were placed

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Henry G. — I am 17 and I expect to start college next year. This has started a big feud in my family.

My parents want me to major in economics or business administration so that I can go into the family business when I graduate. But I want to major in journalism as I

am planning to become a foreign correspondent.

My parents point out that I can make much more money in business, but I just don't seem to care about money. I can have a great time on peanuts. My parents don't want me to live as I like. They ought to be satisfied because one of my brothers and my brother-in-law are already in the business. Why can't I have a life of my own?

Mr. E. G. — Henry doesn't know what he's talking about. Things have been too good and too easy for him. He has lived on the best of everything, yet he thinks he knows how to live on peanuts. He spends more in an evening out than he'd have to live on for a week on a beginner's salary.

We have tried to make Henry understand that we want him to live his own life, but we want him to have a good life. Young men come to us every day begging for the opportunity to get a start in a business like ours. They would consider themselves the luckiest men in the world if they had Henry's chances.

Henry sees himself as some kind of hero, a big-shot correspondent. What if he never makes it?

The Council's Parents might spare themselves a good deal of grief if they resolved to guide, rather than direct, their children into suitable occupations.

Mr. E. G. overlooks the fact that Henry wouldn't be much good to either the business or himself if he is pressured into it.

Mr. E. G.'s hand would be

very well find after a short stint on a small paper that he has neither the taste nor the ability for this type of work. If his parents encourage him to seek and find for himself he will be free to make such decisions. If they try to impose their will, he will be forced to stand up against them, even against his own inclinations and better judgment.

If Henry's ambitions should survive the various trials and tests of reality, it is reasonable to suppose that he has chosen work he likes and is suited to. By that time he will be mature enough to evaluate the opportunities and disadvantages of various fields and make the decision that is best for him.

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under deadly and daily Red Chinese artillery fire.

For a time, the Communist guns successfully blocked Nationalist attempts to supply the islands. Once again, the U.S. stepped in. President Eisenhower declared the islands more important now to the defense of Formosa than they were three years ago. The U.S. 7th fleet stepped up its patrol of the Formosa Strait.

A Nike missile battalion from the U.S. mainland took up positions in Formosa. Nationalist-flown but U.S.-built Sabrejets flew against the Reds and knocked some of them down with deadly air-to-air Sidewinder projectiles.

The Reds said they were willing to seek a peaceful solution to the Formosa question and talks began in Warsaw.

Another crisis subsided.

The year 1958 saw an increasing trend toward military governments among young nations. Such took over in Iraq by revolt, peacefully in Pakistan and in Burma as well as elsewhere. The trend shows no sign of diminishing in 1959.

In Europe, older governments are in trouble or facing it. Governments have changed or face a threat of change in Italy, the Netherlands, Iceland and Luxembourg.

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