

Britain, U.S.: See Iraq As Dangerous Situation

ATHENS (AP)—The reaction of the U.S. and British governments to the sudden explosion in Iraq sets up the most dangerous situation since the end of World War II.

The danger of a new global war is all too apparent, but it is unlikely that such a catastrophe is yet at hand.

The United States has inter-

vened physically in the Middle East crisis. Undoubtedly the reaction from the Soviet Union is going to be violent. But the Soviets are likely to avoid measures which might set off a big international conflict.

Moscow obviously is already doing far too well in the Middle East to risk world war at this juncture. The Soviets probably will make ominous warlike noises for propaganda purposes while stopping short of overt actions which might precipitate a conflict.

The United States landed its Marines in Lebanon despite the known U.S. desire not to intervene militarily. The intervention was dictated not by events in Lebanon but by what happened in Iraq.

The action was not taken to save Lebanese President Camille Chamoun or any other one man, nor was it necessarily an act to save a specific government from going under. Events in Iraq were bound to give new impetus to the Lebanese revolt, but the main concern of the United States was the future of the entire Middle East, with its vast strategic importance to Western Europe.

The United States and Britain face the prospect of the entire Middle East being enveloped by the unreasoning anti-Western fever President Nasser has fostered so assiduously.

For Britain it is a matter of life or death. If the Iraq revolt spreads into Kuwait, Britain most likely will fight. The oil production of Iraq and Kuwait is the life blood of British industry.

The United States, too, has a tremendous stake in what happens in this area, and whether these events spill over into the Arabian Peninsula to threaten the vast American oil holdings there.

The situation can bring the world close to the brink of a new war. But it is unlikely the world is going to topple over that brink at this time. There even might be one slight glimmer of silver lining.

The crisis is so deep and so important it apparently has forced Britain and the United States to long last to consider a common policy for the Middle East. But the struggle for a common policy comes far too late. It had been a crying need for years in the Middle East, where it had been obvious Western interests could go nowhere but downhill so long as the two great Western powers remained at cross purposes.

Now the Middle East is slipping away, and force can do little to halt that process. The sins of inept and divided Western policies are catching up with the West. Only a miracle of Soviet blundering can offer any hope of restoring Western fortunes.

Governor Backs Lebanon Landing

SACRAMENTO (AP)—"I would be ashamed of my heritage of liberty if I had no wish to preserve it for others," Gov. Knight said yesterday in a statement supporting the sending of U.S. Marines to Lebanon.

"We have told the world's terrorists what we would do if they toyed with the lives and liberty of free people," he said. "We must pray to God that those who would conquer and oppress the world will now understand our meaning and be willing to forego violence and oppression for real peace in the world."

Remember the **PROFESSIONAL RODEO** July 25-26-27



"I know how to attract their attention—let's unpack the lunch!"

U.S. Geographic Center Will Shift When Alaska In

By FRANK CAREY WASHINGTON (AP)—When Alaska comes in as the 49th state, the geographic heart of the United States may no longer be in the United States at all.

It may be in southwestern Canada—or even in the Pacific Ocean, somewhere off the coast of Washington state.

These were preliminary guesses today of officials of the A.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Present position of the center is somewhere near Lebanon, Kan. The geographic center is defined as "the point at which the United States would balance if it were all the same thickness and were suspended on a pinpoint."

One way of figuring it is simply to take a map of the United States, paste it on a cardboard and then find the center of gravity by placing your map on a pinpoint.

Sounds easy, but Alaska presents complications for such a stunt, because there is no continuous land connection between Alaska and the rest of the United States. A portion of Canada pops up in between.

A government expert told a reporter one conceivable way of finding the geographic center of a United States with Alaska would be to attach the Alaskan area to your U.S. map by means of a light, aluminum wire and then do your balancing.

"You could also figure it out mathematically," he said, "by taking what we call coordinates of points all along various coastlines. But that would take a long time by ordinary mathematical methods, and might even take days and cost thousands of dollars even with modern high-speed computing machines."

LIBRETTIST ILL. NEW YORK (AP)—Librettist Oscar Hammerstein II, 63, in Doctors Hospital with an intestinal disturbance, was reported in good condition today.

Marine Landing Created Big International Ruckus

NEW YORK (AP)—A bunch of Marines landing in Lebanon has created quite an international ruckus. Not too long ago, the same operation would hardly have raised an eyebrow.

The peacetime U. S. Corps of Marines has landed, fought—and

suffered casualties—so many times and on so many shores that it's easy to lose count.

Thirty-odd years ago Marines were so common in the Latin-American states of Nicaragua, Haiti and the Dominican Republic that knowledge of the Spanish language was almost a prerequisite to enlistment.

And, scarcely a century ago, China and the rest of the Far East seems to have been fairly crawling with fighting, sweating and cursing peacetime Leathernecks.

The American habit of calling on the Marines doesn't appear to have started at any one precise time.

Marines were landing "on the shores of Tripoli" (as their song goes) in the unofficial war against the Barbary pirates in 1804. They were back for a repeat performance in Algiers in 1815.

Leathernecks stormed into the Sumatran jungles in 1832, chasing pirates who killed several American sailors. They fought a pitched battle with the buccaneers and even burned the sizable town of Quallah Battoo.

There was hardly any comment even in the local papers when they taught lessons to natives in the Fijis and Samoa in 1838 and 1839. The natives had a habit of killing American traders and seafarers.

In the middle of the last century, American clipper ships carried on a man-sized trade with the Far East. Trade brought the protection of the U.S. Navy. And the U.S. Navy brought its Marines.

As early in 1854, and possibly earlier, the Corps was in Shanghai battling the troops of the Imperial Chinese Army itself to protect the small foreign colony. The home

team was runner-up in the engagement.

Two years later, a small detachment of Marines cut its way through a 3,000-man Chinese army, taking forts from the coast to Canton, to demand an apology for an insult to the American flag.

The Leathernecks were fighting for unheralded but deadly police action in Korea 80 years before the most recent unpleasantness in that unhappy land.

It started when the Koreans burned a stranded American vessel and chopped up its crew.

The Marines stormed ashore, captured a supposedly impregnable fortress called the Citadel and extracted a promise to be good.

Highpoint of Marine peacetime action in the Orient came during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 when anti-foreign feeling ran high.

U.S. Marines and German soldiers stood back to back in the heroic defense of Peiping's foreign compound. Marines and Russian soldiers spearheaded the international column that lifted the siege of the enclave.

The Marines' peacetime activities are probably best known in Latin America where, in an earlier era, nearly every revolt produced a Marine landing to protect American lives and property and, sometimes, to back a favored cause.

They landed in Haiti on July 9, 1915 to effect a "quick" settlement of the island republic's century-old political chaos. The last Marine didn't leave until Aug. 15,

1934. Marine landings were standard procedure in Nicaragua between 1910 and 1933 and in the Dominican Republic from 1912 to 1924. They brought order to Cuba between 1906 and 1909. They were in Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914. There's no counting the number of times they returned to the beaches of Panama in time of revolt to protect a vital railroad across the isthmus. There was no Panama Canal or Canal Zone in those days.

Alert Speeds Wedding Rite

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP)—A Navy man was married at 2 a.m. today and about an hour later was en route back to his ship without his bride.

The unusual hour for the wedding and the hasty return to duty was in compliance with the alert of the U.S. fleets because of the crisis in Lebanon.

Francis A. Theroux, 20, of Pawtucket, and Ethel Barker, also 20, and of Pawtucket, were to have been married at 9 a.m. today.

Because Theroux was hastily summoned to duty from a furlough, he got special permission from the Post Rev. Russell J. McViney, Catholic bishop of Providence, for a 2 a.m. wedding at St. Teresa's Church.

At 3:45 a.m., Theroux boarded a train alone to return to his ship, the USS Salute docked at Charleston, S.C.

PLUNGE

LIMA, Peru (UPI)—Dr. Angel Indacochea, 43, secretary of the Peruvian committee to the International Geophysical Year, was killed with his wife, two children and a servant when his car plunged today.

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Girls Slain; Dad Missing

TROY, Pa. (AP)—A mother found her three young daughters shot to death last night and her husband missing from their farm home near the New York state border.

Mrs. Margaret Pelton, 23, said she had returned to the house after a visit and had found Connie, 2, slumped in her stroller, seemingly asleep. Concerned that the child was up so late, she called out to her husband Paul, 19.

There was no answer. She suddenly realized Connie was shot. She ran into the bedroom. Patricia, 3, was on the bed. Pauline, 5 months, was in a basket. The children were dead.

Mrs. Pelton said later she ran out to the garage where her father Carlton Brion, 45, had just parked the car. She yelled hysterically: "We got to get help quick. The children are dead."

Brion had driven his daughter to Troy Community Hospital earlier in the evening for a visit with Pauline's twin brother Paul, who was critically ill from an asthma attack. They had been gone about four hours. Their home is just outside Troy, which is about 27 miles south of Elmira, N. Y.

A wide police search was on for Pelton, but Coroner Gerald Vickery said there was not much to indicate he did the shooting, beside the facts he was missing and so was his .22-caliber rifle.

Police said the children had been shot with a .22, Patricia in the head, and Pauline and Connie in the stomach.

3 Gas Barges Still Burning

GRAND LAKE, Ark. (AP)—Three gasoline barges still burned at an Esso Standard Oil Co. terminal on the Mississippi River today as a result of an explosion Monday. One barge worker died as a result of the blast.

A fourth barge burned itself out yesterday and lay submerged in the river.

The body of James Falvey Jr., 36, of Baton Rouge, La., was found in the water near the sunken barge.

A company spokesman said the blast occurred while 36,000 barrels of gasoline on the barges were being pumped ashore.

Officials have not estimated the loss.

Harry Upholds Ike's Decision

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (UPI)—"President Eisenhower had no other choice" but to send U. S. Marines to the Middle East, former President Harry S. Truman said Tuesday.

Truman, who once called out American troops to intervene against Communist aggression in Korea, said "The peace of the world is at stake" in the Iraqi and Lebanese countryside. He reserved any further statement.

Good! GOOD!

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