U. S. WILL IGNORE ARABS' BLOCKADE

Warns Egypt and Syria Bars Are Invalid as No War Exists —Lebanon May Release 41

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WASHINGTON, May 25—The United States has warned Egypt and Syria that it will not recognize their blockades of Palestine, the State Department announced today.

Over the week-end the two Arab countries were told by United States diplomats, on State Department orders, that the blockades were not valid.

In voicing its objections the United States took the position that a state of war did not exist in the Holy Land. The action also was based on the United States concept of freedom of the seas.

Neither country has yet replied to the United States protests, which were in the form of replies to notifications of the blockades given by Egypt and Syria on May 17 and 19, respectively.

A brief State Department pronouncement set forth the United States position without giving the reasons behind it. It was Michael J. McDermott, State Department press officer, who said the United States took the view that a state of war did not exist in Palestine.

[The United States Navy said it had received no instructions on the situation and that it would do nothing unless and until ordered by the State Department, The United Press reported. Navy spokesmen said the nearest warships to the trouble zone were three destroyers and a cruiser in Greek waters. They said the United States had no mine sweepers in the entire European theatre that could be used if the Navy were ordered to clear the blockaded zone.]

Lebanon Makes Offer

At the same time the State Department disclosed that the Lebanese Government was willing to release the forty-one United States citizens recently removed from the American steamship Marine Carp on condition that they return to this country.

Lowell Pinkerton, the United States Minister to Lebanon, was questioning the prisoners today to determine their reaction to the Lebanese proposition.

In reply to a question, Mr. McDermott denied that the protest against the blockade was related to any plan to lift the arms embargo on the Middle East.

Mr. McDermott was asked "on what grounds do we claim it is not valid?"

"There is not a state of war," he replied.

"What is the practical effect of the blockade on our shipments?" asked another reporter. "For example, the Marine Carp went into Haifa the other day."

"It went into Haifa," responded Mr. McDermott, "but on the high seas you have a different situation. We want no interference on the high seas. We fought World War I and World War II on that score."

It was understood that Mr. Pinkerton's action in questioning the imprisoned Americans was without prejudice to the United States position that their seizure was illegal. Mr. McDermott said, however, that their attitude toward the repatriation proposal would be considered in drafting a reply to Lebanon.

Status Called Unchanged

The men on the Marine Carp were seized on the ground that they were en route to fight for Israel against the Arabs. A Lebanese note rejecting the United States protest of their seizure still was being studied and Mr. McDermott insisted the status of the case was not changed by Mr. Pinkerton's interview of the prisoners.

A doubt as to whether forty or forty-one Americans were taken off the ship was resolved at forty-one when Mr. McDermott explained that one named Hanon Yarden, previously identified as a Palestinian, was found to be a United States citizen.

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