U. S. Plane Fleet in Mideast, Ready to Fly Out Americans
By HAROLD HINTONSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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WASHINGTON, May 26—A small fleet of transport planes has been sent to the eastern Mediterranean to evacuate United States citizens from the Middle East if necessary, the State Department announced today. The planes are at the island of Cyprus, a British dependency.

The announcement, which was made by Lincoln White of the State Department's press relations office, was vague as to the exact number of planes, placing it at "approximately two dozen." They were sent from Europe, it was said, and are being held in readiness at the Nicosia airport in Cyprus. They are of the two-engine C-47, or Douglas DC-3, type.

The distribution of United States citizens known to be in the Middle East was given, in round numbers, as 4,200 in Palestine, 1,400 in Lebanon, 200 in Syria, 150 in Iraq, 5,000 in Saudi Arabia, 1,200 in Egypt, 150 in Koweit and twelve in Muscat. The last two regions are sheikdoms on the Persian Gulf.

Mr. White indicated that the step had been taken as a prudent precaution and without having in mind any specific locality where sudden aggravation of danger was expected. The planes, he said, are intended to supplement surface transport facilities in any emergency.

Earlier in the day Secretary of State Marshall announced that he had been informed that because of illness Maj. Gen. John Hilldring would not be able to undertake the duties of Special Assistant for Palestine Affairs, to which President Truman appointed him a month ago. The Secretary said it

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U. S. PLANE FLEET SENT TO MIDEAST

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had not been decided whether the post would be filled.

General Hilldring accepted the appointment on April 28, but has not been able to come to Washington from Arizona. He is generally considered a partisan of the partition plan, against which the Arabs are fighting.

At the Capitol, Representative Jacob K. Javits, Republican, of New York, introduced a measure to authorize a loan of $100,000,000 to Israel and to provide military supplies and technical assistance. The measure was drafted in the form of an amendment to the Greek-Turkish aid program.

Military Mission Urged

The measure would provide arms and other military equipment on a lend-lease basis to assist the forces of Israel to preserve Israeli territory against external aggression. Mr. Javits said he expected that a United States military mission would be sent to Israel.

Charles G. Ross, White House press secretary, said today that there was no immediate prospect that President Truman would lift the embargo against arms shipments to the Middle East. He also said that he could not enlarge on the statement yesterday by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, that Mr. Truman had viewed with favor the idea of a loan to the new state.

Mr. Ross added that the British Government had as yet expressed no objection to such a loan. Dispatches from London have indicated that Whitehall fears such a loan might cause the Arab League to refuse to stop the fighting in Palestine.

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