Editorial Comment on Mideast
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Following are excerpts from editorial comment in newspapers throughout the country on the Middle East situation:

East

NEW YORK

End the Fighting Now

The Herald Tribune (Ind. Rep.)

Unless there is a prompt end to all fighting and a restoration of the status quo, the attack could have almost unlimited consequences and profound effects on vitally strategic points. It is still possible to work for a unified stand to restore peace; even after shooting has begun it is possible to achieve a cease-fire, and to seek diplomatic solutions through the U. N. The prompt diplomatic moves by the United States and the discussion of calling Congress into extraordinary session demonstrate that the present political campaign will not hamper this country from doing whatever may be necessary under the circumstances. But the United Nations is the first avenue of approach to the crisis, and that is the avenue that must be pursued.

The Mideast Situation

The Daily News (Ind.)

The most promising move up to now, as we see it, is the British-French decision to move into the Suez Canal zone. The debate raging in the United Nations Security Council is interesting and picturesque. But it all seems futile. On the whole, and despite President Eisenhower's well-meant objections, the British-French police move seems to us to hold out the best hope of preventing large-scale war. With quiet restored, a reasonable settlement of Arab-Israeli differences could conceivably be reached. Without quiet restored, anything could happen, including World War III. This perilous possibility justifies, we think, almost any imaginable moves to keep peace in the Middle East.

Israel and Egypt

The Mirror (Ind.)

Audaciously Israel marched across the Sinai Peninsula toward the Suez Canal. It was a brilliant political stroke because it was timed to establish one fact, namely that Israel will not be choked to death while the Great Powers appease Nasser of Egypt. Does it mean war? Who can tell? In the past men fought for less and no one will use atomic weapons except as a last resort. And it would do Israel no harm if a United Nations, or a British-French force moved to keep both sides neutralized. Israel's borders would cease to be liquid and subject to Arab attacks. The free world must now marshal its forces for a solution short of total war.

Western Tragedy

The World-Telegram and Sun (Ind.)

There is no time for recriminations. There is only time for repairing the damage, which must bring only despair to the free world and rejoicing to the Communist world. The tragedy is that within twenty-four hours the Western powers could maneuver themselves into such a position. In the long run it will matter little who was right or wrong over the cease-fire or the ultimatum. What matters is that the United States and her major allies are moving in opposite directions—to the delight of the Kremlin. It will take far greater statesmanship and diplomatic skill than has been displayed in the Western capitals in recent days to restore any semblance of an alliance.

Non-Leadership in the World

The Post (Ind.)

There is no longer any semblance of common policy in the free world. The Administration, which has so often proclaimed its world leadership, has lost the ability to lead and the power to unite. It is floundering. Now the policy of appeasing the Arab war lords, long heralded as a master plan against communism, achieves its final desperate folly. America finds itself deprived of its historic allies and joined in unholy partnership with Russia to make Israel the scapegoat of the current crisis. And another great chance to assert democracy's leadership in the quest for a true Middle Eastern peace is being lost.

Mid-East Turmoil

The Journal-American (Ind.)

The American people should be thankful that President Eisenhower has refused to play election-year politics in guiding this nation's policy in the Middle East on a resolute and reasoned course. No one can foretell at this time what will be the consequences of the Israelis' drive into Egypt which seems unmistakably to be an act of aggression. The British-French ultimatum is validly suspect as a power play to enable Britain and France to regain control of the canal on the pretext of intervening in the cause of peace. If that is the way Britain and France want it, they must be prepared to pay the price and it may be high. President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles are at work in the true interests of world peace and American security. We don't see how all Americans can fail to support them.

The Split Alliance

Newsday (Ind.)

Our disagreements are showing badly. We urged Britain —our ally for more than 100 years—to pull out of the Suez, then angered Egypt to the point of seizing the canal by abruptly cutting off promised aid for the Aswan Dam. On Israel there is wide difference of opinion who is aggressing against whom. We turn to the U. N. in desperation to try to prevent full-scale war. We have never made it clear to either Egypt or Israel or our allies exactly what our position is. Despite disagreements and failures of the past, it is clearly a time for us to deal with the present. The fighting in the Middle East must be stopped before it spreads or before nations reach the point of collapse. The real tragedy is the splitting apart of the Big Three alliance—for years the hope and leading spirit for free people all over the world.

Gambling With Peace

The Newark (N. J.) Evening News (Ind.)

The Israeli Government has risked more than a renewal of the Arab-Israeli war. It has risked provoking a general war. Israel invites the judgment of history. True, Nasser had given repeated provocation but the challenge to a world in an uneasy peace had been not to take the first step. Israel took it.

PHILADELPHIA

Backing of President Urged

The Bulletin (Ind.)

Any attempt by political orators to rebuke our Government for supposed past mistakes creates the impression of a divided people; and that could be a national disaster. It is vital in the conduct of foreign policy that the President's decision, when taken, should have the united support of all our people. There will be a few malcontents, but these can be brushed aside when the responsible head of our country speaks and acts.

Eisenhower, Dulles Scored

The News (Ind., Dem.)

We don't know what shenanigans Britain and France are up to, but we know the United States is being left out in the cold. Bewitched, bothered and bewildered under Ike's lack of leadership, Dulles' bumbling, we don't know how the fighting in Egypt is going to come out. The people of the free world cried for leadership from the United States, but Ike and Dulles failed them.

ROCHESTER

U. N. Appeal Praised

The Times Union (Ind. Rep.)

The decision to go to the United Nations instead of joining Britain and France in independent action is one which must be applauded. It was a much more difficult decision to make, because it seems to divide us from our closest friends. But it was the one course we could take as a power interested above all else in keeping the peace.

PITTSBURGH

Compact of Perfidy

The Post-Gazette (Ind.)

In what seems a compact of perfidity, Britain and France have unilaterally seized on the Israeli invasion of Egypt to launch an invasion of their own against Egypt's Suez Canal Zone. Naked colonialism and power politics are behind the Anglo-French adventure. The United States must act in accord with its membership in the United Nations and with its past pledges to assist the victim of aggression in the Middle East.

South

WASHINGTON

The Alliance at Stake

Post and Times Herald (Ind.)

Because of the innumerable Egyptian provocations to Israel, and because of the justified apprehensions about Nasser, the invasion has caused mixed feelings in the United States. Perhaps what the Israeli act of desperation demonstrates most of all is the inadequacy of international measures to protect nations against indirect aggression of the sort sustained by Israel at Arab hands. Today the quintessential concern is what has happened to the Atlantic alliance. If the disintegration of the Western union is now accompanying the dismemberment of the Communist empire, it is a sad day for freedom.

Tragic Days

The Star (Ind.)

France and Britain, with Israel evidently serving as a kind of decoy, have resorted to naked force in the old imperialist tradition. The concept embodied in the United Nations of concerted action to maintain peace and punish aggression has been cynically subverted. The French and the British have made their decision and they must work out their own salvation—certainly without help of any kind from the United States.

CHATTANOOGA

The Fighting Spreads

The Times (Ind. Dem.)

The strain upon the Atlantic Alliance is serious and distressing. The European members of the Western Big Three are convinced that Washington's policy of non-involvement is bankrupt and also that the U. N. machinery is inadequate. There is obvious dismay in the State Department. The fighting in Egypt must be stopped. National interests divide in many directions; but the Western community of interests must not be allowed to crack further.

ATLANTA

Self-Examination Urged

The Journal (Dem.).

Suddenly we are not the leader of a team. We are unheeded by the stoutest friends we had. Our inclination will be to castigate Britain and France. But let us examine our own shortcomings. Unfortunately the unshakable unity forged in war by Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill has quietly died of neglect. If we had retained the loyalty of Britain and France we could have demanded it now at Suez and averted this crisis.

DALLAS

Vetoes Are Condemned

The News (Ind. Dem.)

The refusal of Britain and France to support the United States resolution before the U. N. Tuesday may stem from their Suez discontent. But their blocking veto of the cease-fire demand is as indefensible as Soviet vetoes of the past and as much of a risk to world peace as Israel's rash move into the Sinai peninsula. All of a sudden John Bull seems to be rushing into that area where traditionally angels fear to tread.

NEW ORLEANS

Oil Stake So Noted

The Times-Picayune (Ind. Dem.)

Without doubt the U. S. position would be different if 35 or 40 per cent of the American oil supply were immediately at stake and possibly 80 per cent of it were endangered by the long-term ambitions of Nasser to create an Egyptian-Arabian empire under his aegis. Since the canal was in danger from the outside force (Israel) Britain has acted under the 1950 treaty with Egypt, authorizing her to return to the Suez bases. France, of course, has always maintained a claim of right of action against Nasser for the seizure of the canal.

Midwest

CHICAGO

The Honorable Course

The Tribune (Rep.)

Mr. Eisenhower has taken the only honorable course among all those involved in this affair. He has stood for peace and moral behavior among nations, while Israel, Britain and France have brought war and perhaps have done so by means of sordid conspiracy. We are witnessing the collapse of many illusions. The first casualty is the myth that the United States is called upon to, and does, exercise a "moral leadership" of the world, and that other nations, bought up with years of handouts in economic and military aid, are bound to respect our decisions and to follow our lead.

Moral Strength Expected

The News (Ind.)

The United States stand for peace and fair play will not go unnoticed in the rest of the world. It will strengthen our moral position as nothing else could at this time. The developing crisis in the Middle East calls for courage, clear thinking and sound judgment. The American people can be immensely thankful that sitting in the White House today we have a man who has demonstrated time and again that he possesses all three attributes in abundant measure.

CLEVELAND

The Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.)

Under the circumstances this is clearly not our quarrel, nor do we have any obligation to participate in it. We do have a great interest in the Middle East conflict, however, and that is to see that it does not develop into a world war. No tears will be shed in this country if the British and French, in conjunction with the Israelis, are successful in toppling the Egyptian dictator off his throne. He has been asking for it.

MINNEAPOLIS

U. S. Choice Held Clear

The Tribune (Ind.)

Its commitments leave the United States but one choice—to disassociate itself as emphatically as possible from the Anglo-French action.

ST. LOUIS

No Time for Stevenson

The Globe-Democrat (Ind.)

This can be no time to entrust the nation's control to a man like Adlai E. Stevenson, untried, inexperienced—well-meaning, no doubt, but frankly an international amateur. Had he known, Ike would have intervened to prevent use of force. This is not a fault of the State Department or of Presidential awareness. It apparently was deliberate design.

Far West

LOS ANGELES

Gunboat Diplomacy

The Times (Rep.)

One can suspect that in the age of the hydrogen bomb a couple of the European powers have reverted to the old "gunboat diplomacy" which has not been practiced with much flair since the days before World War I. That the Israelis were taken in by this stroke may be doubted. They believe that their country should be the hinge on which the Middle Eastern world swings. So a working agreement with the British and French whereby the Nasser bubble could be pierced and the Suez Canal restored to its stockholding operators would be mutually profitable.

PORTLAND

Nasser's Rise Predicted

The Oregonian (Ind. Rep.)

Instead of destroying the Egyptian dictator Nasser, as Israel and France particularly desired, this military adventure is almost certain to confirm his rising power as the leader of the Arabic world. It may force the United States into an uneasy alliance with Egypt and the Soviet Union in defense of its principle of opposing aggression no matter who the aggressor.

SAN FRANCISCO

Everyone in for Trouble

The Chronicle (Ind. Rep.)

The major powers are all mixed up in their decisions and intentions and proposals for action to keep the peace of the Middle East. The grim conclusion is that everyone is in for trouble unless there is a return to sanity and the observance of law and order.

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