U.S. LIMITS TRAVEL IN MIDEAST AREAS

Bars All but Essential Trips to Egypt, Israel, Syria and Jordan During Crisis

By ALLEN DRURY
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—The State Department placed a ban today on virtually all travel to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria. It also urged all Americans planning trips to other Middle Eastern countries to defer them "if it is at all possible to do so."

The ban came shortly after the department had announced that 1,888 of the 6,766 Americans at present in the four designated countries had been evacuated. At the same time the Navy announced that transport and combat units of the Sixth Fleet were standing by off Haifa, Israel and Alexandria, Egypt to evacuate those of the 4,878 remaining who wished to leave.

The Navy also announced that Admiral Walter Boone, commander in chief of the United States naval forces in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, would shift his operating headquarters from London to the U. S. S. Pocono in Middle Eastern waters.

Ships Urged to Avoid Suez

The Maritime Administration advised all United States merchant ships to avoid the Suez Canal until the danger there was over. The advice was broadcast to all 1,100 ships of the United States merchant marine in port and at sea.

The State Department's travel ban, providing exemptions only for news correspondents and persons whose presence might be "in the best interest of the United States," read as follows:

"The Department of State announced today that because of the troubled conditions in the Eastern Mediterranean area, passports are not being issued, extended or renewed for travel to or in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria. Passports will be endorsed, 'this passport is not valid for travel to or in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria.' An exception may be made, however, when the Department of State is satisfied that the presence of the person in one of these countries would be in the best interest of the United States. When an exception is made, an appropriate endorsement will be placed on the passport.

Persons planning travel in Middle Eastern countries other than the four specified above for passport restrictions are urged to defer their plans if it is at all possible to do so."

Existing Passports Affected

Lincoln White, State Department press officer, told reporters that to protect citizens now traveling in Europe, United States Embassies would be advised that United States passports, even if not invalidated, were not good for travel to the four designated countries. He said consuls in the various cities of Europe would be empowered to make exceptions, but only on the authorization of the State Department in Washington.

Mr. White said bona fide news correspondents would receive exemption from the ban as a standing policy.

Mr. White listed the number of Americans evacuated from the four nations as follows:

Israel—1,287 out, leaving 2,843 still remaining of a total of 4,130. Of these, it is understood that 1,809 wish to stay.

Egypt—386 out, leaving 1,669 of 2,035 remaining.

Jordan—148 out, leaving 172 of a total of 320.

Syria—87 out, leaving 194 remaining of 281.

The Navy said the units off Haifa and Alexandria were under orders to help evacuate Americans if commercial shipping either was unavailable or insufficient to do the job. Mr. White said the State Department had called on all merchant ships to assist in removing Americans from the area. The State Department said eleven United States Air Force C-124 Globemaster transport planes also were assisting in the evacuation of Americans from Israel.

Rome Embassy Directs Move

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ROME, Oct. 31—The evacuation of Americans from four Middle East countries is being coordinated by the United States Embassy in Rome.

An embassy spokesman said the plans for the evacuation had been made long in advance as normal procedure. They have been in effect for the four countries concerned since Sunday morning. Each United States Ambassador or minister is responsible for the evacuation of United States citizens in his own territory.

If commercial means of transport are not sufficient, the ambassador or minister calls on the Rome Embassy. If ships have to be requisitioned, the Navy is called in.

Airlift Used in Israel

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TEL AVIV, Israel, Oct. 31—Between 200 and 300 Americans were evacuated from the Lydda airport here early this morning by three United States Air Force Globemasters. In addition six naval air transports and six Air Force Flying Boxcars evacuated 100.

The United States destroyer Dixon took 120 Americans aboard at Haifa for evacuation to Piraeus, Greece.

27 Americans Leave Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan, Oct. 31—A United States Air Force plane left Amman this morning with twenty-seven United States tourists and the wife and child of John Sabini, United States Vice Consul in Jerusalem. The Americans were stranded here yesterday when civil aircraft were grounded.

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