Many Britons Believe Eden Acted Rightly--Others Fear a Major War
By LEONARD INGALLS Special to The New York Times.
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LONDON, Nov. 2—If Sir Anthony Eden were to go into the streets of London today he would find considerable support for his Government's Middle East policy.

The views of Londoners, who were questioned at random, showed that many did not agree with the students who demonstrated yesterday. They had demonstrated against the Government, the Labor leaders who have started a "law not war" campaign, and churchmen who have moral doubts about the offensive against Egypt.

Among the men and women interviewed there was solid agreement on one point: all were worried that the Middle East action might develop into a large-scale war. No one wanted that, but many felt it was a risk that had to be taken although nearly everyone regretted that force had to be used at all.

The importance of the Suez Canal as a life-line of Britain was emphasized over and over. This statement usually was linked with a denunciation of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt as an untrustworthy dictator.

Public Takes Crisis in Stride

Britons gave their opinions readily when questioned, but there was no public excitement over the situation. In the public houses, restaurants and other gathering places conversations overheard dealt with nearly everything but the Middle East. The man in the street was taking the crisis in stride. He had been through a lot worse in the past.

Sydney Porter, who peddles papers on a Piccadilly street corner, summed up his feelings this way: "All's I can see is Nasser's broken an agreement, hasn't he? Once Suez is gone we're finished."

His attitude was echoed by John Moore, a bootblack in Leicester Square: "We have got to have oil, and if we have got to have war to have it that's just too bad," he said.

A bowler-hatted bank director and solicitor, who asked not to be identified, disagreed. "Intelligent opinion thinks the Government is wrong," he said. He contended that the only way to find a solution to the Middle East problem was through the United Nations.

Mrs. Doris Rowe, a housewife, distributed leaflets in Leicester Square advertising a "stop the war" public protest meeting. "I feel dreadful," she said. "I hate war in any shape or form."

It was a gray, chilly, drizzly day in London. Malcolm Radcliff, a salesman, stood in the shelter of the Piccadilly Circus underground station. "It could have been settled other than by force of arms," he said. "At the same time Nasser asked for what he is now getting."

A few steps away Mrs. Kitty Charles paused in her work of inspecting subway tickets to remark: "We aren't exactly looking forward to another war, dearie. No one knows where this business will end. I think we rushed in before we thought about it."

Cab Drivers Give Comment

David Lee drives a taxi. "Eden did the commendable thing by stepping in," he said. Other cab drivers at the Leicester Square stand wondered why Britain had not used force when Egypt first prevented Israeli ships from using the Suez Canal.

Harry Cox, a builder, said he "couldn't agree with Eden more." "Nasser and some of these boys who think they can twist our tail have to be taught a sharp lesson," he said.

William Miller, who is in the pharmaceutical business, believed there was no alternative but to use force. "The Government had a perfect right to take this action in view of the obligations it has to safeguard peace in the Middle East," he said.

His friend, Harry McHugh, an exporter, joined in to say: "I think unless we treat Nasser pretty hard, pretty quickly we will have a large-scale war on our hands."

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