TWO U.S. CARRIERS STAYING IN PLACE
By NEIL SHEEHAN Special to The New York Times
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## 6th Fleet Vessels, Off Crete, Could Aid Evacuation

By NEIL SHEEHAN
Special to The New York Times

ABOARD U. S. S. AMERICA, in the Eastern Mediterranean, June 5—Capt. Donald D. Engen, commander of this Sixth Fleet Aircraft Carrier, told his crew this morning that he expected her to remain at her present position despite the outbreak of fighting between Israel and the Arab states.

Early this afternoon Rear Adm. Lawrence R. Geis, overall commander of the fleet's carriers, the America and the Saratoga, said, "for the time being we will continue doing just what we've been doing for the last several days."

The admiral made the statement at a brief news conference aboard the America, his flagship. He declined to specify whether the Saratoga was also expected to remain at her station in the Crete area, although he gave that impression.

Admiral Geis also declined to say whether the fleet had received any special instructions. He said he was receiving most of his information on the fighting from reports by news agencies.

He would not say whether there had been any changes in Soviet naval deployment in the Mediterranean as a result of the conflict.

### In Area for 8 Days

For eight days the America and the Saratoga have been standing by in the Crete area.

The carriers, with the cruiser Little Rock, the flagship of the fleet commander, Vice Adm. William I. Martin, the cruiser Galveston and 10 accompanying destroyers make up the fleet's long-range striking force.

The America, the Little Rock and five destroyers are maintaining position about 50 miles southeast of Crete, The Saratoga was about 110 miles northwest, on the northern side of the Greek island, this morning.

In a brief announcement to the crew, Captain Engen said, "we are continuing with our training in this area, and will continue on throughout the day.

The America is less than a day's steaming from both Israel and Egypt. Her position is about 370 miles east of Port Said at the western end of the Suez Canal, and about 540 miles from the Israeli port of Haifa. The Saratoga and the America are capable of steaming about 800 miles a day.

The feeling was that if evacuation of Americans was deemed necessary, the carriers might be called upon to provide it. The six amphibious transports of the fleet are at Malta, in the central Mediterranean, where the 2,000 marines they carry are on shore leave. Officers estimated that it would take about three days for the group to reach Egyptain or Israeli ports.

### Soviet Shadow Persists

A Soviet guided-missile destroyer continued to shadow the America from a few miles distance.

With the passage of four more Soviet destroyers and Soviet frigate through the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean Saturday and yesterday, there are eight or nine destroyer-type ships in the Soviet Mediterranean force.

The Soviet task group contains two or three submarines, two or three trawlers with electronic equipment and a few auxiliary vessels such as a tanker, a fresh-water ship and tenders.

Yesterday 11 Soviet ships were sighted at an anchorage about 100 miles northwest of the America, off the western end of Crete. Among the ships, it was reported, were the cruiser, some destroyers and a number of auxiliaries.

The anchorage is one of several regularly used by Soviet ships in the Mediterranean.

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