

# Marines, Fleet Shifted in East

## Washington in Security Clampdown As 7th Fleet Heads for Indochina

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—U. S. Marines and units of the 7th Fleet were on the move in the Far East yesterday, raising the belief they are on alert in event of an East-West showdown over Laos.

Military strategists of the anti-Communist Southeast Asia Treaty Organization held a secret six-hour conference and reportedly heard U.S. Adm. Harry D. Felt once again urge them to "get tough."

Washington imposed one of the strictest security clampdowns on military movements since the Korean War but it was obvious something was up.

The aircraft carrier Midway and two destroyers steamed out of Hong Kong with a few hours' notice just after dawn. Other 7th Fleet units in the South China Sea — with 1,400 Marines aboard — were reported moving toward the Indochina coast.

Two thousand Marines taking part in a movie being filmed in Tokyo were suddenly shipped out, leaving the film company without troops for a big combat scene.

There was no official word on the destination of the Marines, who are based on Okinawa, and officials said only that their departure was a "routine operational readiness test to see how fast they could get from one location to another on short notice."

A responsible source at the SEATO meeting said a U.S. Marine maintenance unit of 100-150 men is being sent to Udorn, Thailand, 50 miles south of the administrative capital of Vientiane, to service helicopters supplying the royal army.

There were reports the pro-Communist Pathet Lao offensive in central Laos continued to gain ground even though the government commander, Gen. Phoumi Nosavan, publicly assured King Savaeng Vathana the royal army "uncontestedly now is the master of the situation."

Thailand's defense minister, Gen. Thanom Kittikachorn, said he learned the rebels captured the government stronghold of Muong Kassy and attacked north toward the royal capital of Luang Prabang.

The rebels, carrying Soviet arms under the guidance of Communist "advisers," have cut Laos nearly in half.

The defense minister said as many as 14 Communist North Vietnamese battalions are in rebel-held areas of Laos. He did not reveal the source of this information or say how many men 14 battalions represented.

How far the United States goes in matching the Communist build-up appeared to hinge on Soviet Premier Khrushchev's reaction to an urgent appeal for an immediate cease-fire.

# U.S., Britain Set Peaceful Power Plan

## Soviet Shows Apathy When Asked to Join In Nuclear Explosions

GENEVA (AP)—The United States and Britain asked the Soviet Union yesterday to join them in a program of peaceful nuclear explosions designed to give the world more safe harbors and make deserts bloom. The Soviet delegate took a dim view of the idea.

The proposal was advanced by the American delegate, Arthur H. Dean, at a 17-minute meeting of the nuclear weapons test suspension conference.

Dean declared nuclear power deployed for peaceful uses would provide great benefits for all mankind — not just for the three atomic powers.

He suggested that the world's newly emerging nations in Asia and Africa were being penalized by failure to get such projects started.

"This program represents a New Frontier in applying basic science which our scientists are eager to explore," Dean declared.

For the second day, the Soviet delegate, Semyon K. Tatarsapkin, kept mum in the conference. Talking to newsmen after the meeting adjourned, he expressed doubt about the whole concept of peaceful explosions.

Presumably he is awaiting detailed instructions from Moscow before reacting officially to the new Western drive to get a nuclear test suspension treaty completed.

Under the American - British plan such a pact would prohibit the testing of atomic and hydrogen devices for military development purposes. But it would allow safeguarded nuclear explosions for scientific research and to carry out great engineering projects.

# Soviet Warned By Kennedy About Attacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy warned the Soviet Union last night against continuing the crisis in Laos. His tones were moderate but, as U.S. warships left port, his message was firm and clear.

In a statement at his news conference, the President said if Soviet-supported attacks do not stop, "those who support a truly neutral Laos will have to consider their response."

Kennedy never detailed exactly what that response would be. But as he spoke, Secretary of State Dean Rusk was preparing to leave Washington for a conference of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization in Bangkok, Thailand.

Some foreign diplomats said that if the U.S.S.R. rejects a British proposal for a cease-fire in the Asian kingdom, Rusk would ask SEATO to honor a provision of its treaty and support Laos.

Despite questions from newsmen, Kennedy would not comment on reports of U.S. Navy warships leaving ports in the Pacific and heading toward the crisis-stricken area.

"I think that my statement is clear and represents the views I wish to express at the present time," Kennedy said when asked about the naval movements.

Thus, while affirming the U.S. commitment to a neutral Laos, Kennedy did not proclaim any threat of American force. No one doubted, however, that the potential was there.

This seemed to be an example of Kennedy's attempt to model his own foreign policy on the policy of President Theodore Roosevelt: "Speak softly but carry a big stick."

# Stevenson Advocates African Aid Initiative

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Adlai E. Stevenson yesterday called on the new African nations to seize the initiative in developing a broad aid program "by, of, and for Africa." He said it should be divorced from the cold war, and pledged support of the Kennedy administration to it.

But the chief U.S. delegate clashed immediately with Jaja Wachuku, Nigerian economics minister, who demanded concrete proposals "that are not intended to hoodwink anybody, that are not intended to mesmerize us."

Wachuku said he was disappointed because Stevenson failed to say just how many dollars the United States is willing to put up.

The two spoke in the U.N. General Assembly's Political Committee, where debate opened on a help - to - Africa plan originally put before the United Nations last fall by President Eisenhower.

Obviously nettled by Wachuku's reaction, Stevenson said the Nigerian was suggesting that "Africans demand an American proposal for Africa."

The U.S. delegate said he would brush aside reference to tricks, mesmerizing and disappointment. He declared that African nations with whom the United States has been consulting had accepted his request for showing initiative in developing an aid program.

"We sincerely desire to be associated with it, and, if they so desire, would be prepared to extend assistance in the formulation of such plans and programs," he asserted.

Wachuku spoke after Stevenson, who then took the floor to

comment on the Nigerian's statement. Wachuku told a reporter he felt Stevenson's later comment amounted to assurance that "the United States means business and that's all we wanted to know."

Stevenson made clear it was not his purpose at this stage to advance a detailed, rigid program. He said it was for the Africans themselves to determine its content.

"It is also our hope," he added, "that the various African nations, individually and jointly, will want to assume the responsibility for developing a long-range program for their continent so that it will be clear to all of the world that it is by, of, and for Africa."

"Only the Africans can develop Africa, in the last analysis."



Adlai E. Stevenson

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# Polaris Fired

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The nuclear submarine Theodore Roosevelt successfully launched a Polaris missile from beneath the Atlantic yesterday, nearly three hours after another rocket was destroyed following an underwater firing.

The Navy announced the second missile achieved all test objectives in striking a target more than 1250 miles away.

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