

Washington News

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Foreign policy, which is taking most of President Eisenhower's time these days, is beginning to dominate the scene in Washington again. The 85th Congress has been grabbing most of the summer headlines but it seems that the State Department, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and U. S. foreign relations are soon to be on page one daily.

One ominous note from the key Middle East area came recently when pro-Communist elements grabbed actual control of Syria. The Communists have been eating away in Syria for some time, encouraged by President Nasser's bitterness against the West.

When President Shukri Kuwatly

was forced to name an outright Communist to the chief Army post in Syria, that was the signal to Reds the world over that Syria had at last been taken over completely.

Washington has watched Syria disintegrate steadily for some time now and could apparently do nothing to stop the steady drift toward disaster in that country. Now Syria can be classed as a Russian-dominated state—ready to obey Moscow's instructions. It is a major defeat for the West.

Moreover, it is a reply to the successful coup of young King Hussein of Jordan, who—earlier in the year—threw the Reds out of key positions in Jordan. It is a strong physical reply to the ac-

tion in Jordan, and brings the possibility of strife between Jordan and Syria ever closer.

The President has announced that Jordan would be given \$20,000,000 worth of aid, mostly military, by the United States. Syria no doubt is receiving extensive Communist Military support and the situation in this region complicated by Israel's presence and antagonisms on this score, is more inflammatory than it has been in recent months.

The long-term danger is what worries officials even more than the immediate danger. Russia is moving in on the region with infiltration, arms and money—and news and propaganda broadcasts more effective than the efforts of any other country, and the Arabs listen to the radio. Most of them do not read much.

Eventually Russia may have a bloc of countries in the Middle East spreading the world infiltration and imperialism doctrines and until that sore is wiped out the Reds will be fermenting bitterness and strife in the Middle East—aimed at the eventual enslavement of this area, even at the cost of minor wars.

As a result of the steady Red pressure, and such events as that which occurred in Syria recently, U. S. policy in the Egyptian invasion is being seriously questioned again. And Secretary Dulles' sharp rebuff to President Nasser—a couple of years ago—is being given a second look.

That was when Dulles slapped Nasser's face, in a diplomatic way, by refusing to go ahead with loans to Egypt for the building of the Aswan Dam. The manner in which Dulles acted was questioned at the time and Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal followed. Now this incident is again coming under close scrutiny and second-guessing.

Yet no one can say that the United States did not prevent a brush war in trying to stop the British-French attack on Egypt. And no one can be sure that Nasser would not have seized the Suez Canal anyhow, even had not Dulles rebuffed him bluntly. So there is no clear-cut answer to the present dilemma.

What is known is that the Communist influence in the Middle East is obviously active and threatening again. In the first six months of this year the Eisenhower Doctrine checked the rising tide of Communism in that area and the Richards Mission actually won back much support the United States had lost.

It is imperative that no further

Commissioners Told Of New Highway Program

Raleigh.—Director of Highways W. F. Babcock announced this week that preparations of specific procedures for the guidance of county boards of commissioners concerning rural secondary roads is nearing completion and should be in the hands of county commission chairmen within the next few days.

Secondary Roads Officer Harold Makepeace is in charge of preparing these procedures, according to Babcock. Makepeace, the director said, mailed to county commissioners statements of policy on secondary roads shortly after the policy was adopted by the State Highway Commission at its meeting in Raleigh early this month. The outline of procedures now in preparation is in line with this policy, he stated. Among other things it will deal with handling of citizen petitions.

In the letter to county boards,

ground be lost in this area and that is why Democrats and Republicans critics charge that the State Department is 'treading water' in the Middle East at present, and fear further inroads by the Communists.

The situation may eventually affect the arms program. Washington is carrying on talks with the Russians about limiting arms, is cutting some two billion dollars from original spending plans for defense in the present fiscal year, and hoping that the situation in the Middle East does not flare up again. Another war there, or another Communist coup, might seriously change the defense picture in Washington.

Secondary Roads Officer Makepeace said: "Because of the limited funds available, it is the position of the State Highway Commission that funds for paving secondary roads should be limited to those roads which are an essential part of the communication and transportation network of the State."

Paving priorities on secondary roads, according to policies adopted by the new State Highway Commission, will be established with three factors in mind. (1) The average annual 24-hour traffic count, (2) adjacent land-use characteristics and (3) public service characteristics. These factors will be developed more completely under a points priority system already given tentative approval and soon to be given a complete testing in Iredell county. According to Highway Director Babcock the Iredell studies will be used in the preparations of long-range plans for secondary road development.

Representatives of the secondary roads department will begin shortly conferences with county boards of commissioners to prepare a secondary road plan for each of the 100 counties of the State within the allocation of secondary road funds. Recommendations of the county boards will be followed so long as they are compatible with State Highway Commission criteria and so long as funds are available.

Should the secondary roads department fail to concur in the county commissioner recommendations, Highway Director Babcock said, the secondary roads department must file its reasons with the county board. Babcock further

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stated that when yearly county by county plan is prepared by Secondary Roads Officer Makepeace and approved by his office, it will be filed with the county boards of commissioners. These plans for each county will list secondary road projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1958.

Dance And Pie Sale Slated

The women of the Episcopal Church at Valle Crucis will sponsor a square dance and pie sale at the Valle Crucis Mission School on Saturday night at 8:00 p. m.

Admission prices will be 25c and 50c. There will be a performance of the Cranberry dance team. A local quartet will sing.

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