

# Middle East Crisis Cast Shadows Over Air Bases Of U.S. In Mediterranean

By ROGER GREENE

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's stake in the ominous struggle for the Middle East is bigger and more vital than appears at first glance.

Fabulous deposits of oil and the Suez Canal are the obvious prizes. Both of them loom with enormous magnitude.

American investors have hundreds of millions of dollars involved in such oil-rich Arab states as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Britain regards the Suez Canal as an indispensable lifeline to her empire.

Other nations also have a paramount interest in keeping the canal open to shipping at all times without depending upon the whims of Egyptian Premier Nasser.

**Vital Bases**  
But to American military authorities, the critical problems of Arabia, oil and unrestricted transit through the Suez are rivaled if not surpassed by the potential threat to this country's outer perimeter of defenses against Soviet Russia.

At the moment, the threat is most acute in the Middle East. It could spread to other quarters of the globe.

Fed by Egypt's open defiance of the Western Powers, the flames of anti-Western Arab nationalism have been whipped to new heights



of fury during the Suez crisis.

The result, as viewed by Pentagon officials, has been an upsurge of uncertainty as to the future of U.S. air bases in the North African trouble zone.

American bases in French Morocco and Libya, built on a "crash" basis at a cost running into scores of millions of dollars, depend for their existence—to a large degree—on the temper of the Arab world whose land they occupy.

**Delicate Problem**  
If the United States sided with France, for example, in the dispute with Egypt over the Suez Canal, Moroccans embittered by French "colonialism" would obviously be hostile to the continued presence of U.S. air bases in that Arab land.

Therein, according to diplomatic authorities, lies one of the behind-

the-scenes reasons for this country's extremely delicate maneuvering in the East vs. West flareup in the Middle East.

Major U.S. air bases in the Mediterranean area include four in French Morocco—at Benguerir, Nouasseur, Sidi Slimane and Boulhaut — and one in Tripoli, Libya.

In addition, we have four bases in Spain — at Madrid, Zaragoza, San Pablo and Moron — which presumably would figure in any major conflict in the Mediterranean area involving the United States.

**Security Tightened**  
Pentagon officials declined to give any estimate of U.S. air strength, either in planes or manpower, at the bases. Security on such data has been tightened considerably in the last few weeks.

However, an Air Force spokesman emphasized that planes using these bases—including giant intercontinental bombers equipped with atomic weapons—"aren't kept on the ground like sitting ducks."

Constantly shifted, the planes are kept ready round-the-clock wherever they might be. The bases themselves are strongly defended by Air Force "security police." They would be used chiefly as staging areas and for mid-air refueling in time of emergency.

"We haven't hit the panic button yet," an Air Force officer commented. "Just say we're ready if the alarm does go off."

Alaska is the largest United States territory, comprising more than 586,000 square miles.

## State Industrial Booklet Has Three Photographs Of Local Dayton Rubber Plant

STATE INDUSTRIAL 24

Three photographs of The Dayton Rubber Company are in the newly published book "Research, A Dynamic Development Triangle." The booklet was published by the State Department of Conservation and Development.

The first picture is a third of a page, and shows the Dayton laboratory here, with four chemists at work. The second picture shows a workman moving Dayton Koolfoam pillows from the molds, while the third photograph, is a recent picture of the plant, taking up about one-third of a page.

There is also a picture of Enka, Champion Paper and Fibre Company, and an exterior view of the new General Electric plant, Hendersonville.

A map of the state showing the density of industrial establishments in the 100 counties in North Carolina, rates Haywood in the group with 5 to 19 industries. The total number of industries in the state totals 4,563. Buncombe shows more than 100, while Henderson is in the 50 to 90 group. All other counties west of the French Board are in the 5 to 19 group except Clay and Graham, which shows none to 4.



PFC WILLIAM E. BEASLEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shuford Beasley of Fines Creek, has been discharged from the Army at Ft. Lewis, Wash. after two years service. He took basic training at Fort Jackson, and later was sent to Alaska.

## 100 - Vacations Story Tells WNC's Story To The Nation

Directors and members of the Western North Carolina Highlanders, Inc., met in special session at Asheville this week to hear a special report on the "100 Free Vacations" program sponsored jointly by the Highlanders and the Palmolive-Peet Co.

The report was made by George Vogel, an executive of ETHOS, public relations agency in New York, who flew to Asheville to report on the program conducted throughout the nation.

Vogel said the cooperative project had acquainted millions of persons throughout the nation with Western North Carolina as a tourist mecca through newspaper, point-of-sales, radio and television advertising.

In contests promoted in 16 states and 55 cities and towns in the east, mid-west and south, more than 90 free vacations were given as prizes.

"What has happened is only a beginning," Vogel said. "A continuation of this promotion on an expanded scale will mean benefits to every man, woman and child in Western North Carolina. You have an edge over other sections, for you have something wonderful and rare to offer. More and more people are traveling. More and more people are becoming vacation conscious.

"Your job is a job of merchandising. It's a challenge to the region to do a cooperative, one-for-all, all-for-one area promotion."

Vogel pointed out that the Highlanders - Palmolive - Peet venture has put across the story of Western North Carolina to the one person in every household who decides its vacation — the housewife.

He said his clients were enthusiastic over what has been done and that they are anxious to continue the joint project.

Highlanders board members agreed that results of the campaign have far exceeded expectations and further agreed the promotion should be continued for the coming year as a means of attracting more visitors to Western North Carolina.

The Highlanders Free Vacation Project committee was instructed to begin work immediately on plans for expanding the project.

Charles Morgan, newly elected president of the Highlanders, said he expected to call a meeting for shortly after the first of the year so that final plans can be made to get the promotion under way.

"We are going to take advantage of this promotion," he said, "we should launch it early in the

## His Aim Was Good

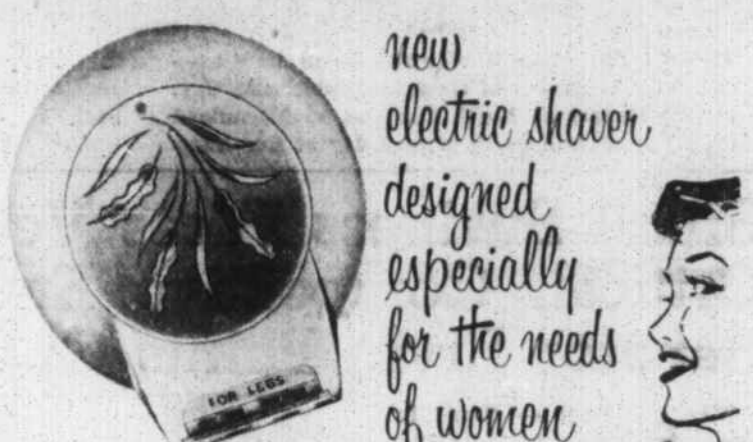
HENNESSEY, Okla. (AP)—Jack Doerr, a farmer near here, woke up in the middle of the night and through the moonlight thought he saw a badger looking him in the eye.

He got out his shotgun and fired through the window, then went outside to see his bag. He found holes in his wife's washtub.

The earliest steamboat was built in France in 1780. Robert Fulton's "Clermont" began regular service in 1807. The first transatlantic steamer, "The Great Western," made its initial crossing in 1836.

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MARTIN ELECTRIC COMPANY

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## Canton Churches Plan A Series Of Christmas Services

Churches of the Canton community have announced special Christmas services, beginning Sunday and continuing from time to time until Christmas Day.

At the First Baptist Church Sunday evening the choir will present a cantata, "A Star in the Sky," at the evening hour, 7:30. Jack Medford, minister of music, will be in charge.

"The Shining Star" will be presented at the Church of God on North Main Street on Saturday evening at 7:30, December 22, under the direction of Mrs. W. W. Hicks.

The play for the Junior Department is under the direction of Helen Holland and Patricia Buchanan.

Friday evening, December 21, the Young Adult Class at Morning Star will have a special meeting and exchange of gifts at 7 p.m.

The well known and much loved "The Messiah" by Handel, will be presented at Central Methodist Church on Sunday, December 23, at 5 p.m. The presentation is un-

## Singing Event Is Set For Beaverdam Church

A special singing will be held at the Beaverdam Methodist Church Sunday at 2 p.m., when the East Haywood Singing Convention, and the regular Fourth Sunday singing will be held jointly.

Officers for the coming year will be elected during the business session. The public is invited to attend.

A hospital and medical clinic in Kayseri, Turkey which was established 750 years ago, in 1206, still stands.

Under the direction of Walter Holton. The choir will be assisted by guest singers from other churches.

At Calvary Baptist Church on Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

Special music will be rendered by the church choir, Carl Painter Jr., director, and Mrs. Sara Lee Hipps organist. The pastor, the Rev. B. L. Ray, will bring the message.

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