

1957

Statement of Mike Mansfield - Discussion of President's Speech on Middle East

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Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Statement of Mike Mansfield - Discussion of President's Speech on Middle East" (1957). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 1606.

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (DEMOCRAT - MONTANA)

The President's speech on the Middle East was a powerful, well delivered argument in favor of his position. However, there was nothing in the speech that suggested that danger is so eminent that the speech itself should have preceded the State of Union message. Certainly it is no sudden discovery that the situation has reached a critical stage. The two new points raised are:

(1) Authority to use Armed Forces, which raises again the serious constitutional question by committing Congress in advance to a Presidential Declaration of War;

(2) Authority to develop military economic aid programs without any Congressional review.

The speech recognizes the seriousness of the Arab-Israeli and the Suez questions and that they exist independent of the Communist threat. Nothing however, is suggested as a contribution to their solution. The speech fails also to recognize the potentially dangerous impact of ^{more} our arms in the Middle East on these two issues. There is no time limit on the resolution so that it may extend long beyond the term of President Eisenhower's term of office. The resolution needs to be gone over very carefully and its possible affects should be considered in the light of the three basic Middle East problems at this time. They are:

- (1) The Arab-Israeli question
- (2) The Suez question, and
- (3) The arms-traffic question.

The really significant factor is the possibility the proposed resolution raises on the use of American armed forces on an unilateral basis under certain conditions in the Middle East.