Art Courston "noon here copable of making a speech" no speech - a Sala Bell D Presidents Club-"Touched" John Bailey Attoring of John Cruinel Prespecches Charles Barbeques Cooktailfaiter And Hala's 0> Great Devisions

" warchouds

very penies -we furme every means for Peaced and -

Statement of Ambassador Goldberg on the Middle East Situation

In light of the extreme gravity of the current situation in the Middle East and the state of tension prevailing there, the United States greatly welcomes the decision of the Secretary General to travel to that area in an effort to assure peace.

We have already expressed our regret **that the** about the decision to withdraw UNEF from the area.

We note with great concern the Secretary General's report today to the Security Council warning that the situation is more menacing than at any time since the fall of 1956. We share this concern.

The presence of United Nations peacekeeping machinery of various types in the Middle East has contributed substantially to stability ever since 1949 when the Arab-Israeli conflict was halted through the signing of general armistice agreements between Israel and the adjacent Arab states. The United States supports the presence of the United Nations in this area and believes it vital that it be maintained in the interest of peace. The United States is also highly conscious of the responsibilities of the Security Council under the circumstances of the Secretary General's report. The extreme delicacy and gravity of the situation requires the most careful consideration of all steps which may be taken to alleviate tension and stabilize the situation in the area.

The United States, of course, would not wish to initiate any steps which would interfere with the Secretary General's efforts to pacify the situation in the Middle East. Nevertheless, conscious of the primary responsibility

- 2 -

of the Security Council for maintenance of international

peace, we shall continue to give the closest attention to developments and will be consulting further with other Council members to review what other constructive steps may be required in the interest of maintaining peace.

NOTE: The above is the statement that Ambassador Goldberg made at a press conference late this afternoon, May 20. In response to hypothetical questions of "What would you do if, etc.?", Goldberg said that he did not think it proper to speculate on what our government would do if the Arab

states were to wage war upon the Israelis.

Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

