INFORMATION AGENCY

SUMMARY: MATTERS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST,
WITH CITATION OF EXPLOITABLE POINTS

In view continuing efforts by communists and Arab extremists to
discredit Middle East Doctrine and US Middle East policy generally, it is
urged that PAOs explore and exploit all possibilities of effectively keeping
US policy objectives constantly in minds of people in area. Widespread
awareness and understanding of US policy is especially important because
of deep interest of Soviets in area, and evidence that some elements in
area are sympathetic to Moscow planning. Effort to achieve understanding
of US policy would complement and be consonant with diplomatic efforts being
made to solve Middle East problem.

Washington media are being called on to give field material on
following points:

1. US Resolution on Communist Aggression in Middle East.
2. Soviet Activities.
3. Richards mission.

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[Signature]
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Ref point 1 attention called to Policy Information Statement (NIA-170) CA 5553, January 11, 1957. In addition to points covered in ref PIS it may be pointed out that no country in ME threatens security Soviet Union and neither US nor any other free world power desires use ME as base for aggressive action.

Ref point 2 attention called to Soviet proposal of Four Power Declaration (FIS CA 6946, February 27, 1957) which constituted effort to effect status of ME nations without their consent, whereas American proposals contemplate no action not specifically requested by country or countries involved.

Ref point 3 continue emphasize voluntary basis of US program and that program testifies to broad identity of interest between US and ME countries (FIS CA 7267, March 6, 1957). Maximum effort should be made by PAOs to publicize announcements, joint communiques, and statements by Richards and ME leaders, following guidance cabled by Mission. Other points include facts some 60 free world nations have economic, technical assistance agreements with US; with great benefit to selves and no infringement sovereignty and independence; Moscow showed true intent in attempting extend communist domination over Greece; fate of mosques under Soviet rule is testament to true communist policy toward Islam.
Ref point 4, although Gaza, Suez, Aqaba, Tiran problems subject of continuing and delicate negotiations, there are specific points reflecting US policy which should be stressed as practicable (PIR CA 7349, March 12, 1957): These include:

a) UN and US consider Egypt-Israel Armistice agreement to be in force and that observance is required by both...

b) Since Israel has completed withdrawal in conformity to resolution GA and in view measures taken by UN deal with problem, in US view there is no basis for either party to Armistice Agreement to assert or exercise belligerent rights.

c) US believes Aqaba comprehends International waters and no nation has right to prevent free innocent passage in Gulf and through Straits Tiran, subject to possible ruling by IGC on status of Strait.

d) US supports six principles for operating canal approved by UN SC October 13, 1956.

Points capable of USIA exploitation include following:

a) Strong US position in support of UN on armed invasion of Egypt, motivated by principles of morality and justice and was taken in interest of strengthening machinery for settling disputes peacefully,
b) US public opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of the government's position, including US insistence that invasion forces withdraw from Egyptian territory.

c) US and majority of other nations in UN on record there should not be return to status quo prior to invasion of Egypt.

d) US through UN took lead in bringing about cease fire and procuring withdrawal of foreign troops from Egypt.

e) Outcome UN efforts to settle current MD problems will have effect degree confidence US public and other peoples free world may have in efficiency of international machinery for settlement disputes.

f) US will take MD policies on principle of law and justice. Acceptance of such principles by all nations helps guarantee sovereignty, independence, and security of other countries, especially new nations of NE, Asia, Africa & extreme Ukraine. Uncompromising positions undermine efforts toward peace for all nations and invite dictator.