Policy Statement on Middle East Adopted by International Committee of National Planning Association

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. RICHARD L. NEUBERGER

OF OREGON

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Tuesday, January 22, 1957

Mr. NEUBERGER, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the appendix of the Record a policy statement on our position in the Middle East, adopted by the International Committee of the National Planning Association on December 17, 1956. This statement was brought to my attention by one of the most illustrious and revered former members of this body, the ex-Senator from New York, Herbert Lehman. It is interesting to see the manner in which this committee anticipated some of the problems and considerations with which the administration must now grapple in judging how to act on this administration's belated effort to develop an American policy toward the Middle East.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

THE PRESENT CRISIS IN FOREIGN POLICY—A STATEMENT BY THE NPA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE DECEMBER 17, 1956, WASHINGTON, D. C.

It is high time that the American people be asked to face the realities of the complex situation in the Middle East. There, in an area of rising Arab aspirations, historic Western interests are in conflict with historic Russian ambitions. And it is becoming daily more apparent that the Soviet Union, whether acting as a client of the peoples both of the Middle East or of the Western World. Clearly, Western Europe with its ever-growing dependency on the free flow of Middle Eastern oil would be immediately exposed. But the stark fact remains that anything which weakens to such an extent our principal allies would, quite apart from the challenge to American economic interests in the region, constitute a serious, if not a vital threat to our own security. Taking the long view, it would seem no exaggeration to assert that the outcome of the continuing struggle between freedom and despotism may be determined in the Middle East.

The point, which should be underscored, is that not merely a vital interest of Western Europe, but a vital interest of the United States as well, is under formidable attack.

Until we recognize this circumstance as the overriding consideration in the formulation of national policy, we shall hover precariously on the edge of disaster. But it will not be the disinterestedness which will now accept the situation for what it really is, we may still have time in which to snatch victory from imminent defeat. For once we abandon the comfortable illusions which have been leading us astray, we may be able to develop a soundly conceived national policy, constructive in nature and designed to promote international peace and security.

There is accumulating evidence that the administration is energetically seeking to restore the solidarity of the Atlantic commu-
nly, and in particular to play our full part in re-establishing that atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust which had characterized until quite recently our relations with the United Kingdom and France. At this juncture, shipments both here and abroad, from the United Kingdom and France, should be encouraged.

And considerable encouragement can be derived, both here and abroad, from the continuation of the cooperation between the United Kingdom and France. At this juncture, nothing could be more important—though circumstances might be expected to follow the resumption of Limited strength and resolution, the problem of the Arab-Israeli relations could be approached with new hope. Here, our primary interest is in the establishment of peace and justice throughout the Middle East.

We are not insensitive to the fact that justifiable grievances exist on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We know that these are unlikely to be disposed of until present tensions have been materially reduced. To assist in resolving these tensions should be our continuing aim. But until the passage of time permits a real peace for the good of all the nations of the region—a peace fortified by treaties freely negotiated—be substituted for an uneasy armistice, we together with the United Kingdom and France, should stand firmly and unitedly committed to maintain the existence of Israel within the present armistice lines. And, meanwhile, we should use all our influence, inside and out of the United Nations, to prevent the recurrence of those tragic episodes which have marred the armistice in the past.

It is in accord with our national tradition to look with friendship and sympathy upon the new nationalisms emerging throughout the area. In an atmosphere of peace, we should be ready to render substantial assistance toward their social and economic development. The example of Turkey, which dramatically illustrates what happens to countries that have fallen within the Soviet orbit, should help to convince these new nations that in the long run their desire for national independence will be far better served if they do not yield to the blandishments of Soviet communism.

On too many occasions in this first half of the 20th century we have found ourselves involved in wars which might have been avoided had we made our inelastic position clear in time. Let us profit by past mistakes. We shall not avoid war unless we are willing in defense of a vital national interest to take the risk of war. In the Middle East, a vital national interest is at stake. The free world will breathe more easily if we now take the courageous and forward looking steps which the times demand.

The Late Honorable T. Millard Hand

SPEECH OF
HON. ERRETT P. SCRIVNER
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 16, 1957

Mr. SCRIVNER. Mr. Speaker, no matter how touching may be our tribute, our words can, in no way, lessen the loss suffered by his loved ones in the passing of our friend and colleague, T. Millard Hand.

Representative Hand was a serious, earnest, hard-working member of the Appropriations Committee. His advice, admonitions, and observations on matters before us were listened to with respect, and most often, heeded with pleasure because we knew they were...