

National

Mediterranean fleet alerted

US forces boost security

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Elements of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force and the 6th Fleet are at increased readiness in the Mediterranean in case of a flare-

up in the aftermath of the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. About 4,000 Marines were aboard eight amphibious ships led by the helicopter carriers Guadalcanal and Saipan in

the eastern Mediterranean near the Greek island of Crete and farther east, defense officials said. Crete is due north of the Egyptian-Libyan border.

The heightened readiness ordered for the RDF announced Tuesday by the Pentagon but approved at both the White House and the State Department signaled U.S. willingness to intervene militarily if a crisis erupts in the Middle East affecting U.S. interests.

The order was issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff "in case we have to move into the Persian Gulf if directed," a defense official said.

He said increased readiness did not mean upgrading the alert status of either the RDF which can draw on 200,000 men from all branches of the service or U.S. forces worldwide. The Pentagon statement said pointedly that "no unusual troop movements are taking place in the United States."

"Nobody is moving," a defense official said. "This is just increasing their ability to move. Some elements of the RDF have been contacted and requested to take the necessary actions to be ready to move."

The boosted readiness and the increased security precautions in the Middle East mean heightened watches for terrorist threats hostile against U.S. warships and gearing up for moving out on command.

"The Department of Defense has taken some prudent steps," the statement said. "Ships in the area as well as some elements of the RDF have been placed on increased readiness."

The Pentagon did not specify which RDF units were involved but the heart of the force and its only operational unit is the 8th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C. It includes the crack 82nd

Airborne Division, one of the few outfits that can be mustered into action quickly.

The primary mission of the RDF, which just Thursday became a unified command with headquarters at MacDill Air Force base, Fla., is to react to crises in the Persian Gulf for the protection of Western oil supplies. RDF units trained with Egyptian forces near Cairo in November, 1980.

The United States plans to construct facilities in the area for the stockpiling of equipment for use by the RDF — one of them to be built at Ras Banas on Egypt's Red Sea coast.

Pentagon officials scoffed at reports the readiness order was designed to warn Libyan leader Moammar Khadafi against interfering in Egypt during the transition period that will culminate with elections in two months. Egypt and Libya have been arch enemies since their brief border war in July, 1977.

"These were prudent measures taken to protect U.S. interests and nothing less would be expected of us in such uncertain situations," a Pentagon official said.

The directive also was aimed at the 26 warships in the Mediterranean including the aircraft carrier Nimitz that was anchored in the Italian port of Venice. Two F-14 Tomcat fighters from the Nimitz shot down two Soviet-built Libyan Sukhoi 22 fighters over the Gulf of Sidra Aug. 19.

The amphibious ships carrying the Marines were in the eastern Mediterranean as part of a NATO exercise and one unit of 2,000 Marines aboard four of the vessels was to relieve the second unit defense, officials said.

There was no immediate indication whether both units were ordered to stay put as part of the heightened readiness.

Suspected IRA terrorist seeks release on bail

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — A suspected Irish Republican Army terrorist wanted in Britain for the slaying of a London policeman sought release on bail Tuesday in federal court.

William J. Quinn, 33, an American, is accused of shooting Police Constable Stephen Tibble on Feb. 26, 1975, in Kensington, London.

Quinn spent a year in prison

in Ireland for alleged IRA activities but British authorities were unable to return him to England because of extradition difficulties.

Quinn later made his way to the United States and the San Francisco Bay Area. FBI agents arrested him last Wednesday in South San Francisco, where he had worked since his return from Ireland in 1977.

U.S. Magistrate F. Steele

Langford ordered Quinn held without bail after his arrest and told his attorney to be back in court Tuesday if he wanted to ask for bail to be set.

Papers filed with the U.S. Court by British Detective Inspector Alan Lewis charge Quinn was involved with sending bombs through the mail, which later exploded and injured several people.

What's up at Texas A&M

Wednesday

FAYETTE COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Pictures for the yearbook will be taken and a party will be discussed at the meeting in the MSC lobby at 6:30 p.m.

ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB: There will be a slide show of Cuatamala in Rm. 301 Bolton at 7:30 p.m.

ECONOMICS SOCIETY: There will be a speaker from the Placement Center at the meeting in Rm. 350 MSC at 7 p.m.

REVELIERS: There will be a rehearsal from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Rm. 003 of the MSC. Tenors and rhythm guitarists are needed for vocal music. To audition, go by Rm. 003 MSC.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY: Dr. Gibson will speak on resumes at the meeting in Rm. 102 of the Academic & Agency building at 7:30 p.m.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: There will be an Aggie supper at 6:15 p.m. in the A&M Presbyterian church. All denominations are welcome.

SAN ANGELO WEST TEXAS HOMETOWN CLUB: There will be a meeting at 8 p.m. in 501 Rudder Tower. Dues will be collected (\$3.00) and a party will be planned.

NURSING SOCIETY: Sgt. Proudfoot of the Army Reserve will speak at the meeting in 140 MSC at 7 p.m.

PRE-VET SOCIETY: There will be a general meeting and a tour of the Vet school in Rm. 201 of the Vet school at 7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN AND DRAFTING STUDENT CHAPTER: Club will work on projects in Rm. 304 of the Engineering building at 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION: Pictures for the Aggeland and officer elections will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 204C of the library.

HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION: There will be Kol Nidre services with Rabbi Kruss in the Hillel building at 8 p.m.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: Student Senate meeting in room 204 Harrington at 7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Newman Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center.

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