Radio script for Senator Thurmond's regular weekly broadcast on the subject of the Middle East resolution, recorded on 1957 March 5

Strom Thurmond

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My Friends and Fellow Citizens:

For many weeks I gave a great deal of consideration to the resolution authorizing the President to undertake military and economic cooperation with nations in the Middle East.

I voted for the resolution on final passage. I was opposed to the provision specifically authorizing use of $200,000,000 for economic aid to Middle Eastern nations. I voted for the Russell amendment which would have removed that authorization because I believe we should try to reduce foreign economic aid instead of increase it.

Nevertheless, when we were defeated in our efforts to remove that provision, I felt the resolution was too important to our country to vote against it. I want to tell you the reasons which brought me to that viewpoint.

I believe every citizen of this country -- particularly every mother and father -- is more interested in continued peace than in any other matter.

Regardless of our preference to leave other nations to work out their own problems, I am convinced that circumstances force the United States to recognize the practical situation which exists in the Middle East. If we fail to take steps to halt the infiltration of Middle Eastern nations by the Communists, I believe it is most likely we shall soon find ourselves faced with another situation such as the one which developed in Korea in June 1950.
In my opinion the Korean War developed largely as a result of our failure to let it be known that we were interested in maintaining the integrity of South Korea. Instead of letting our interest be known, Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State at that time, had made a speech in January 1950 in which he did not mention Korea as being one of the areas in which we were interested.

Korea was a tragic and costly experience to the United States, both in human lives and in our resources. We cannot charge the Secretary of State with causing the Communist attack on South Korea, but we must remember the lesson of Korea when we consider our vital interests in trying to maintain peace in the Middle East.

Another instance in our foreign relations should also be remembered. In 1955 the President requested the Congress to approve a resolution expressing our interest in Formosa and certain of the off-shore islands of China. At that time the Chinese Communists were giving every indication of launching attacks on the islands and on Formosa. When the Congress approved the resolution with an overwhelming show of unity, the Chinese Communists immediately became more conciliatory toward the United States.

The lessons of Korea and Formosa show rather clearly that the nations of the world respect the United States when we take a positive position in any matter.

In my opinion, the President already had legal authority to enter into agreements with the nations of the Middle East for their military and economic development.

The most important point in approving the resolution was to demonstrate the unity and determination of America against the
aggression of the Communists. I am firmly convinced the resolution has had that effect and will help restrain the Reds in the Middle East.

I am greatly pleased that a South Carolinian has been selected by the President as his Special Ambassador to the Middle East. I refer to former Congressman James P. Richards of Lancaster. Ambassador Richards retired from Congress as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. His vast experience over nearly a quarter of a century in the House of Representatives, as well as his experience in 1953 as a member of the United States Delegation to the United Nations, give him the highly important background needed to take a practical approach to international problems. The fact that Dick Richards is to lead our efforts to maintain peace in the Middle East gives me added confidence.

On a subject closer home, I am pleased that the Farmers Home Administration has promised me, after many conferences during the past two months, to provide further emergency loans to South Carolina farmers. Details of the additional loans can be secured by interested farmers from local FHA offices.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington. Thank you for listening and this station for making this time available each week.

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