

On the record.



In order to avoid confusion as to the United States position with respect to Formosa, the President directed that the statement prepared by General MacArthur on this subject be withdrawn.

For background.

The President has clearly stated American policy toward Formosa, in his statement of June 27 and in his message to the Congress on July 19. In addition, on August 25, Senator Austin acting on instructions of the President, summed up the position of the United States on Formosa fully and clearly in the letter addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations. The President's statements must stand as the official position of the United States. There can be only one voice in stating the position of the United States in the field of foreign relations. This is of fundamental constitutional importance.

Furthermore, General MacArthur is the United Nations Commander in Korea, the question of Formosa has now been brought before the Security Council of the United Nations, and members of the United Nations have differing points of view regarding Formosa.

In considering the problem of Formosa certain specific points of the position of the United States Government must be borne in mind.

1. For instance, the President's statement of June 27

makes

makes clear that, as a corollary of the action in directing the Seventh Fleet to prevent an attack on Formosa, he was calling upon the Chinese Government on Formosa to cease all air and sea operations against the mainland.

2. In the same statement, the President said that the determination of the future status of Formosa must await the restoration of security in the Pacific, a peace settlement with Japan or consideration by the United Nations.

3. In the President's message to Congress of July 19, he stated that we have no territorial ambitions nor do we seek for ourselves any special position or privileges on Formosa.

4. In this message the President also said that the present military action is without prejudice to the political questions affecting that island and that our desire is that these political questions be settled by peaceful means.

5. The President also said that with peace re-established even the most complex political questions are susceptible of solution, but in the presence of brutal aggression some of these questions may have to be held in abeyance in the interests of the security of all.

Not only in these statements made by the President as official statements of the Government, but in the official communication which Ambassador Austin as the direct representative of the President made to Mr. Trygve Lie on August 25, Ambassador Austin quoted the President's statements referred to above and said: "These statements and the facts to which they related make perfectly clear certain fundamental points which the

people



people of the world will have clearly in mind."

The fundamental points which Ambassador Austin then listed as the essence of American policy include those just referred to. It is essential that these fundamental points remain absolutely clear as United States policy amid the storm of propaganda which Mr. Malik is raising on this very subject.

The President's action in directing the withdrawal of the General's message was an effort to preserve the clarity of the position of the United States.

