

Armed Forces and keeps them immobilized there in Yemen.

From our point of view the real danger of this situation was not so much what happened to the Yemenis; we can let the Yemenis have civil wars, chaos and all kinds of things which they've been enjoying for many centuries without disturbing the rest of the world. The difficulty in this case was that it appeared to be a threat to other parts of the area and that if Nasser somehow pulled off this thing and established a satellite government of his own in Yemen, a part of this process would be moving on against Saudi Arabia and challenging important positions and American interests, particularly in oil and in our close relations with the Saudi Arabian regime, which we weren't quite prepared to see happen.

On the other hand, the British felt even more threatened because Aden here, which is about the only one remaining big British base in the Middle East and from their point of view it is essential to the maintenance of the British position which remains here on the Persian Gulf, even including Kuwait, which, though it is now independent, is Britain's most important source of oil, and Britain has the treaty for the defense of Kuwait should there be an attack on it.

And Aden is an essential military point from that standpoint, as well as being a part of the world communications system of the British Commonwealth, and important to their global strategic commitments. So that, Yemen, through Nasser's intervention and the possible establishment of an Egyptian setup there, caused a good deal of concern in the West.

Now, the reason the thing has become such a headache to everybody