into the Middle East, which continued in a different form after the Bolshevik Revolution, and in many ways has continued the traditional policy begun under the Czars.

There were two critical points, as you recall, in world history and in two World Wars; that was the fourth power - Germany, which attempted in seeking a world position of its own, to do so by pushing into this area. Strategic considerations were the basic explanation for the long struggle over the Ottoman Empire, which at one time in its history really controlled the whole area of what we know as the modern Middle East. And it was the weakness of that empire that became apparent by the 18th Century, that led to the struggle between the outside powers, for key points which would preserve for them the particular positions like the Straits, Suez and Cyprus, which they felt were necessary to preserve an imperial position.

In many ways the Middle East was, in fact, what General Eisenhower said when he described it some ten years ago before a Congressional Committee, as strategically, in territory alone, the most important strategic area in the world, to use his precise language; so far as the sheer value of territory is concerned, there is no more strategic area in the world.

The United States, of course, didn't really come into this picture until World War II and after it. You recall that within the war we were with the British in the Middle East Command; helped them to run the Middle East Supply Center which more or less controlled the economic life of the area during the wartime period; and we were in Iran with the