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This Week In Congress Radio Address: U.S. Armed Forces Land In the Middle East,
1958 July 18

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on July 18th, 1958.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. The Washington atmosphere during the past week has been one reminiscent of the crises period immediately following the invasion of South Korea by the Communists in 1950. Comment and discussion, much of it in the form of speculation, occurred everywhere. In the Senate cloak rooms and the corridors. In various offices all over Capitol Hill. Departments of the government and the White House. Tension was apparent in almost every conversation, and for good reasons. The landing of United States Armed Forces into the strife-torn and politically explosive Middle East has precipitated a situation fraught with danger. For centuries, this oil-rich area of the world has seethed with intrigue and violence, born partially out of a fierce sense of nationalism which exists among those people. In fact, this nationalistic spirit is probably as deeply involved in the current situation as are the forces of Communism and Democracy. On the one hand, the United Arab Republic, led by Nasser of Egypt, seeks to unite the Middle East into a unified force. While this may be understandable from a purely selfish viewpoint, the danger exists because of the association between Nasser and the Kremlin, an ominous threat to the Western world. For should Great Britain and the United States be denied access to Mid-East petroleum deposits, it could cause infinite harm to allied military capabilities, not to mention the economic consequences. Furthermore, our government has expended a tremendous sum of money for economic assistance to Middle East countries and in support of the Eisenhower doctrine. Unfortunately, however, the results have not been as expected. In the meantime, the Soviet Union is endeavoring to exploit the uneasy political situation by branding the United States as virtually an aggressor. A country ignoring the interests of the United Nations. The Russians are charging that we are interfering with the internal affairs of other nations, specifically, Lebanon, and that the British are taking the same action in Jordan. Realistically, of course, this situation would be amusing if it were not so tragic, for recent history is filled with a record of flagrant indifference by the Soviet Union toward the individual rights of any nation

which it has been able to suppress and hold captive. I mentioned in my first statement after last week's crises arose that the President's decision to send troops to Lebanon was a calculated risk. In my judgment, this is still the case. As matters stand, we indeed move swiftly and strongly to forge a giant ring around the entire Middle East to prevent its penetration by possible outside forces and to discourage further internal upheaval similar to that which has occurred in Iraq. Much now depends on what steps are taken at the United Nations. Of course, in the Security Council, Russia has the power of veto, and will undoubtedly use it to destroy the effectiveness of any action taken in support of our position. This means that the matter will probably then come before the larger body of the General Assembly, where our cause will again be brought to the fore. At the moment, there appears to be some hesitation and perhaps opposition on the part of smaller nations to back this country in its bold move to stabilize conditions in Lebanon. We must hope that our viewpoint will prevail. Meanwhile, we have no course but to remain vigilant and to be prepared for whatever may happen next. It is my fervent hope and prayer that the government of Lebanon and of Jordan will stabilize the situation within their own borders and remove the threat of further civil strife that we may withdraw our troops.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 06:00]