

JUNE 5, 1967

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY PRESS SECRETARY
GEORGE CHRISTIAN

We are deeply distressed to learn that large scale fighting has broken out in the Middle East, an eventuality we had sought to prevent.

Each side has accused the other of launching aggression. At this time the facts are not clear. But we do know that tragic consequences will flow from this needless and destructive struggle if the fighting does not cease immediately.

The United Nations Security Council has been called into urgent session.

In accordance with his policy instituted earlier to keep the Congress advised of developments in the Middle East crisis, the President has asked Secretary Rusk and Secretary McNamara to brief the Senate and House leaders at 9:30 a.m. today. At 8:30 this morning the President will meet with Secretaries Rusk and McNamara, Walt Rostow and George Christian.

The United States will devote all its energies to bring about an end to the fighting and a new beginning of programs to assure the peace and development of the entire area. We call upon all parties to support the Security Council in bringing about an immediate cease fire.

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