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SUEZ CRISIS

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Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd hurries to No. 10, followed by his French colleague Christian Pineau, for emergency talks brought about by Egypt's seizure of the Suez Canal Company, in which Britain and France hold the bulk of the shares. Mr. Robert Murphy of the American State Department is also at the talks and the U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Foster.

War Minister Anthony Head arrives - for though everyone hopes the Suez Canal crisis will not become a military one, any argument over the Canal - the most strategically vital of all waterways - touches a tender spot, and Britain must be ready for any emergency. General Templer, Earl Mountbatten, and other service chiefs are on hand for consultation. The Lord Privy Seal Mr. R.A. Butler is also present at the most fateful discussions Downing Street has seen for many months.

Meanwhile in Cairo, wildly cheering crowds greet premier Nasser as he returns from Alexandria. Latest news suggests Nasser is climbing down a little on the question of Canal dues - but the grab remains.

While the crisis continues, Britain's bases in the Mediterranean must be kept fully up to strength. At Southampton, reinforcements leave for Cyprus in the brand-new troopship "Nevasa". If military action should be necessary, the already troubled island of Cyprus would become an important link in the chain of communications.

This is the Nevasa's maiden voyage, and whatever the future holds for her passengers, they have no worries about the journey, for they're travelling under conditions their fathers would have envied. The 20,000 ton Nevasa is the largest British troopship ever to be designed specially for the purpose. A thousand troops can be carried - (more in an emergency) and there are cabins for another 500, to accommodate families and senior ranks.

The dining saloons and lounges look more like a pleasure cruiser than a troopship.

For the children, it is a pleasure cruise, and no messing. Talking of messing, the P.B.I. are doing all right. Here's hoping that by the time they reach port, the politicians will have sorted things out!