

Move Termed Premature

Box 9/17/64

British Foreign Office Disowns Plan To Bomb Sukarno's Invasion Bases

The Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Sept. 16—Foreign Office sources today shot down their own trial balloon of last week about possible British bombing of Indonesian bases to deter further aggression against Malaysia.

Such talk, they emphasized, is highly premature. Britain places her first reliance upon a United Nations Security Council resolution in response to Malaysia's complaint.

If this should not deter Indonesian President Sukarno, they added, then there would be the possibility of intercepting Indonesian planes and ships by intensified military patrols.

Only if such actions failed to halt the incursions would there be consideration of retaliation against Indonesia proper. Such a contingency

is too remote for detailed decisions now.

Specifically, the Foreign Office denied stories that there had been an American effort to dissuade Britain from retaliatory action similar to that taken by the United States against North Viet-

*Three Gurkha companies
ring Indonesian invaders
of Malaysia. Page A17.*

Nam. Such stories, it was intimated, may have been encouraged by Indonesia.

London newspapers last weekend published reports that American officials had warned that the United States already was preoccupied with Viet-Nam and that the Seventh Fleet would not be available to help in the event Britain ran into trouble.

The American Embassy

confirmed that there have been no such discussions here. The Foreign Office conceded, however, that the United States would have a valid concern about escalation of the Malaysian-Indonesian conflict because of the ANZUS Treaty with Australia and New Zealand, both of which have military units in Malaysia.

Foreign Office sources had explicitly mentioned the example of the American strike in the Gulf of Tonkin in their hints of British retaliation.

What has happened, it may be surmised, is that the hints floated last week served their purpose in warning Indonesia but were beginning to have a counterproductive effect upon Afro-Asian delegations at the U.N.