

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Foreigners Gain Training in CBW

10/25/67 By Jack Anderson

Pentagon officials aren't advertising it, but the Army is instructing foreign specialists in chemical and biological warfare.

A total of 550 aliens from 36 nations—including Egypt, Yugoslavia and South Vietnam—have taken 2-to-36-week courses at the Army's Chemical School at Ft. McClellan, Ala.

Although fewer than half-a-dozen Egyptians have learned about poison gas in the U.S., these key officers reportedly used their ominous American know-how to help plan the poison-gas attacks upon Yemen in 1967. Representatives of the International Red Cross verified that Egyptian pilots dropped canisters of poison gases from two Mig fighters and nine Ilyushin bombers over Ketaf, a remote Yemen community. Some 150 villagers gagged, coughed and bled to death.

The Egyptians, like other foreign specialists, supposedly were taught only "defense" against the hideous sprays and germs. As part of the "defense" courses at Ft. McClellan, however, they received expert instruction in the poisonous qualities of the gases, how these gases can be disseminated and which gases are most effective under various conditions.

The U.S. nondiscriminately has trained Arab and Israeli officers alike to "defend" themselves against poison-gas attacks from each other. In addition to the Egyptians, specialists from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia have attended the Army's Chemical School.

The only Communists who have been admitted into the secret chemical classes at Ft. McClellan are the Yugoslavs. However, close allies, such as

the British, Australians and Canadians, have been given a deeper insight into our chemical and biological warfare technology at the super-secret Dugway Proving Ground, Utah—site of nerve gas tests on animals.

Congressional incredulity over American storage of nerve gases abroad and the shipment of lethal gases inside the U.S. has now raised doubts

about the training of foreign troops in gas and bacteriological lore. For the Pentagon, as in the dreadful old myth of the sowing of dragons' teeth, has seeded the world with poison-gas and germ-warfare experts.

Muzzling Agnew

As delicately as possible, Republican leaders have suggested to the White House that Spiro Agnew, like a model Vice President, should be seen more and heard less.

At a political strategy session behind closed White House doors, GOP National Chairman Rogers C. B. Morton called attention to editorials in The Washington Post and New York Times blistering Agnew for his intemperate remarks about the antiwar demonstrators.

The Vice President had suggested in New Orleans that "a spirit of national masochism" was "encouraged by an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals." He had described the recent Moratorium as "an emotional purgative for those who feel the need to cleanse themselves of their lack of ability to offer a constructive solution to the problem."

Morton didn't go quite as far as The Washington Post, which suggested that President Nixon "repudiate the excesses of his Vice President of alliance him or—ideally—do both."

More tactfully, the GOP party chief suggested it wasn't good politics to engage in verbal warfare with the antiwar clique. The best answer to the demonstrators, he said softly, would be the President's Nov. 3 speech on the Vietnam war.

Sen. Hugh Scott and Rep. Jerry Ford, the Senate and House Republican leaders, agreed that it would be better to let the President do the talking on this sensitive subject.

Sen. John Tower, the tough little Texan, disagreed. Outside of Washington and New York City, he said, the reaction to the Vice President's cracks wouldn't be as critical. The consensus, however, was that maybe Agnew should be urged politely to keep a governor on his tongue.