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British Anti-U.S. Surge Swollen By Mounting Pile of Irritations

By Flora Lewis

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LONDON, Feb. 12—A new spate of uneasiness about Anglo-American relations has developed here as Prime Minister Douglas-Home begins his talks with President Johnson.

The current surge of Anti-Americanism is not a general, pervasive feeling, of the sort that can be found in France reflecting a sense that national interests are conflicting as a whole. Rather, it is a mounting pile of specific disputes that add up to irritability and less than easy confidence.

Desire for an Anglo-American special relationship remains overwhelming in Britain, but there is a feeling that it is not working as it should.

A Gallup Poll taken the weekend Home was leaving for North America showed that 75 per cent of Britons considered America basically friendly to this country. But 16 per cent thought it unfriendly and 9 per cent were undecided.

Only 54 per cent thought President Johnson's policies favorable to Britain, 12 per cent thought them unfavorable.

When it came to specific questions, the British public showed a good deal of solidity for London's side of arguments with Washington. Seventy per cent approved trading with Cuba; 16 per cent though U.S. complaints against the bus deal justified.

There apparently was not a question on Malaysia, but other evidence is that the pub-

lic is even more nearly solid on this issue and dubious about U.S. intentions there.

Surprisingly, half the people polled said they would prefer a return to conscription if that were the alternative to relying on U.S. troops for meeting Britain's overseas commitments. Twenty-four per cent chose calling for U.S. help, as in Cyprus, and 26 per cent gave no opinion.

The Daily Telegraph, which published the poll today, commented editorially that it shows a small but evenly distributed hard core of anti-Americanism in Britain.

The poll's results, also showed that the peoples' attitudes toward America did not depend on their domestic political views; the favorable and unfavorable were evenly divided on right and left.

A number of leading politicians on both sides are more disturbed about the situation. Those who grant America good intentions in Malaysia, and not all do, worry aloud that Washington is too trusting not to be outmaneuvered by President Sukarno of Indonesia.

They claim on the other hand that Washington is too

suspicious in dealing with Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba, too narrow-eyed to see longer-range advantages of enlarging trade with the Soviet Union and dealing with China. Meanwhile, they worry whether Bonn has not sneaked up and overtaken them in Washington's affections.

An added element to the anti-American feeling came with the troubles in East Africa. London was pleased that Washington acknowledged how useful and well handled was British intervention. But, like a long-delayed hiccup from a binge the night before, East Africa brought fresh resentment with old claims that the United States forced Britain to dissolve its empire too soon.

Renewed publicity about British scientists' emigrating to America provides more sour taste.

What the British want above all, especially now that the empire is gone and the Common Market is shut to them, is trade—trade everywhere, and never mind too much about influence. America is seen as a political friend but an economic competitor against whom existing and hoped-for markets have to be defended.