

TROOPS ACROSS U.S. ARE PUT ON ALERT

Response Time Is Reduced
to Check Any Rioting

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WASHINGTON, June 5 —

Several thousand Army and Marine troops across the nation were placed on shortened alert early this morning should the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy result in rioting that could not be handled by local and state authorities.

Pentagon sources said that the response time of some units had been cut in half.

"If, for instance, a battalion of military police outside Washington was already on two-hour alert to rush to the capital in case of trouble, this has been advanced to one hour," a source said.

In addition, the Air Force placed some troop transports on stand-by and checked the schedules of scores of other planes in case a large-scale airlift became necessary.

President Johnson phoned Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford shortly before 5 A.M. to get his assessment of what might happen around the country in the wake of the shooting. Mr. Clifford had been awakened shortly after the shooting by an officer calling from the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon.

'Want to Be Ready'

"We don't really expect a lot of trouble, but we want to be ready," a ranking Pentagon official said.

Officials were particularly watching Los Angeles, where the shooting occurred, and Washington, where thousands of people are taking part in the Poor People's March were thought to be in an unpredictable mood.

In the capital, Mayor Walter Washington canceled all leave and days off for District of Columbia policemen for 24 hours and extended tours of duty for the 3,100-man police force. He also directed a battalion of National Guardsmen to assemble in local armories tonight.

More than 23,000 Federal troops were rushed to Washington, Chicago and Baltimore in April to help state and local policemen and National Guard troops quell disorders following the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

70,000 Troops Trained

More than 70,000 Army troops have received extensive riot-control training over the last several months and have been placed in 22 brigade-size and 24 battalion-size units specifically earmarked for dispatch to localities undergoing major civil disorders.

In addition, more than 400,000 National Guard and 200,000 Army Reserve troops have received similar special training.

Minutes after the shooting in Los Angeles, officers in the Army operations center, on the second floor of the Pentagon, alerted top military officials as well as key commanders around the country.

Responsibility for planning such activities has, since late April, been vested in the newly established directorate of civil disturbance planning and operations headed by an Army lieutenant general, with an Air Force major general as deputy. They or members of their staff are on duty around the clock in the operation center.

2 Ships Collide in Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO, June 5 (AP)

—The United States freighter Transcaribbean and the Taiwanese freighter Taishou collided yesterday in the Pacific 450 miles southwest of San Francisco. The Coast Guard reported that there were no casualties.