

Church, McClure agree on Arabian action

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Idaho Sens. Frank Church and James A. McClure generally agree on what course of action this nation should take in the turbulent Middle East warfare.

In separate interviews, they agreed the United States should stay neutral, but if there is an attempt by Iraq or Iran to shut the passage of precious oil through the Straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, then they feel American military action is necessary.

Church, chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who has the ear of President Carter in the volatile situation, said "as long as the war is confined to a border quarrel, we should steer

clear."

"However, we must make certain there is no interruption in oil supply through the Persian Gulf.

"I have told President Carter if it became necessary to use our navy to keep open the Straits of Hormuz, we should make the fleet international in character so that our own purpose will not be misinterpreted."

Church said he has received information the British, French and Australians would be willing to participate in such a naval force for purpose of assuring the flow of oil.

McClure described the Middle East situation as one of turmoil.

He also said if the war between Iran and Iraq

remains limited and the flow of oil is largely uninterrupted, there should be no problems.

He said, however, if Russia should overtly attempt to interfere, then it would be time for this nation to step in.

"We must keep the Straits of Hormuz open, regardless, and this could take military action of some kind," he said.

"There is much emotion in the Moslem world and this could be a dangerous situation."

He pointed out this nation has no Arab ally, now that Iran has become hostile. He said it would be necessary for Israel and an Arab nation to become the bulwark for a peace but this is not possible at this time. Egypt is not acceptable as an Arabian spokesman.

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