

June 21, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 818 - United Nations Middle East peacekeeping forces -- which authorizes appropriations for United States payments of its share of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East.

The bill, will provide an open-ended authorization of appropriations for payment by the United States of its share of the expenses of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights. These forces resulted from the disengagement and cease-fire agreements worked out under United Nations auspices following the October 1973 Middle East war.

Under the formula for apportioning expenses for the U.N. forces among United Nations members, the U.S. share was established at 28.9 percent of the total. The bill will specifically recognize this formula by providing that the appropriations it authorizes are not subject to the general limitation of 25 percent on U.S. contributions to the U.N.

The Congress has already appropriated \$28.8 million subject to enactment of this bill to cover estimated U.S. contributions through October 1975. S. 818 will also authorize any additional appropriations for any periods after October 1975, to cover necessary U.S. payments for its share of the peacekeeping forces' expenses.

The President has signed H. R. 4700 - NASA Appropriations Authorization -- which authorizes appropriations of \$3,562,310,000 for the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for fiscal year 1976 and \$925,150,000 for the transition period, July 1 to September 30, 1976.

The President has signed S. 441 - Availability of forest pest control funds -- which makes appropriations provided under the Forest Pest Control Act available until expended.

Under existing law, appropriations provided under the Forest Pest Control Act lapse at the end of the fiscal year. This situation frequently impairs the continuity of Federal and matching State programs, as funds may cease to be available at the height of particular pest or disease infestations. S. 441 will remove this technical inflexibility by providing authority, similar to that in many other programs, that will make appropriations available until expended.

The President has signed H. R. 3109 - Annual authorization of appropriations, saline water program -- which authorizes appropriations in the amount of \$4,100,000 to carry out the saline water conversion program of the Interior Department during fiscal year 1976.

Since 1952, the Interior Department has conducted a program to develop methods and processes for low-cost desalting of seawater and brackish water. The current authority for this program is the Saline Water Conversion Act of 1971, which provides that authorization of appropriations be obtained annually.

During the past year, the Office of Saline Water which administered this program has been merged into a new Office of Water Resources Research and Technology.

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