PACIFIC DEFENSES—Here is how Formosa stands as the most advanced outposts in the Pacific islands of the United States and the Western world as noted by the President in a special message to Congress.

Fleet Prepared, Admiral Says

TAIPEH, Formosa, Tuesday, Jan. 25 (AP) — Vice Adm. Alfred M. Pride declared Monday his 7th Fleet was ready to cope with any situation in the perilous waters north of Formosa, where the first civilians have left the menaced Tachen Islands.

President Eisenhower’s readiness to fight for Formosa speech was received in unofficial quarters with some mixed reactions. But these quarters expressed belief that Eisenhower was prepared to offer the 7th Fleet to bring on Nationalist soldiers from the Tachen Islands and agree with the President’s recommendation.

Pride said his 7th Fleet was in position to evacuate the soldiers who were expected to come with the planned movement to the islands 200 miles north of Formosa. Pride told a White House news conference that Eisenhower was consulting Congress on the use of the fleet because of the “evacuation of the Tachen Islands would be a very grave move.”

Pride emphasized that his fleet, bolstered by three aircraft carriers, was strong enough to cope with any enemy in the Tachen Islands. The carriers Essex, Yorktown and Kearsage joined the Wasp with the 7th Fleet.

Pride said the fleet is deployed in the best way possible for its mission. While he did not spell out what this mission is, he said he would like to protect the Tachen Islands because of any other offshore islands considered vital to the defense of Formosa.

Unofficial quarters expressed some disappointment that Eisenhower did not mean specifically in his message to Congress the defense of Quemoy, across the strait from Formosa, and the Matsu group near the mainland 100 miles northwest of Formosa.

They were certain, however, that the President had the islands in mind when he said the danger of armed attack against Formosa and the Tachen Islands “compels us to take into account closely related localities and actions which under current conditions might determine the failure or the success of such an attack.”

They saw this as an indication the United States would intervene against any major Communist assault on any of the important offshore islands.

(In this squared with informed opinion in Washington. Officials there said a resolution placed before Congress, U.S. Senate, was not expected to pass, but it will go as soon as the U.S. Congress agrees to the President’s recommendations.)

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AMERICAN AIRLINES SETTLES PILOT TIFF

A controversy between the Air Line Pilots Association (AFL) and American Airlines Inc., which halted the airline's flights for 25 days last summer has been settled.

Settlement of the controversy, which dealt with the operation of nonstop westbound transcontinental schedules, was announced jointly Monday by C. N. Sayen, association president, and C. R. Smith, president of American Airlines.

The agreement permits the scheduling of the DC-7 flights involved in the controversy but reaffirms the eight-hour flight time rules for all other schedules.

The agreement also provides: Pilots on nonstop transcontinental service will receive flight pay and flight time credit at the rate of one and one-half for all time in excess of eight hours.

There also will be an override of $5.00 an hour for the captain, $3.00 an hour for the copilot on these flights. The “override” premium will be paid for every hour flown, including the initial eight hours, and will be computed on actual hours flown, whichever is greater. This pay will be in addition to the time and a half overtime pay after eight hours.

This agreement was reached after officials of the union and American Airlines engaged in an analysis and recommendations of Davis L. Cole, a neutral in the dispute.