

# AIR SHOW IN ATHENS CALLED UNFEASIBLE

## U. S. Admiral Says a Jammed Program Caused Canceling of Aerial Displays

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATHENS, Sept. 6—The United States Embassy affirmed today that the fighter aircraft aboard the aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt had canceled their aerial display over Athens because of "technical reasons." It denied reports that political considerations had dictated cancellation of the air show.

In an interview with the press corps here today, Rear Admiral John H. Cassidy, commander of the good-will squadron, said that he would have liked to put on an air display, but had found that the presence of mined area would have made the recovery of the aircraft a precarious undertaking unless he had gone some forty miles from the coast, in which case the planned social schedule would have been retarded.

He explained, too, that he had received orders to proceed to Athens when his ships were between Gibraltar and Naples on the cruise whose purpose was to "show the flag."

### 3 Greek Sailors Killed

ATHENS, Sept. 6 (AP) — Commenting on the canceled airshow, Admiral Cassidy said: "I am very sorry we did not put on the show here, but the Embassy wanted us to launch the planes at 8:30 A. M. and anchor at 10:30 A. M."

That would have been impossible, he said, because of the delay in passing through a minefield forty miles south of Piraeus, from which the carrier could launch the planes, and would have put the ship into port in the afternoon. The planes were to have written "FDR" in the skies over Athens. Admiral Cassidy said he had no information that the demonstration had been called off because of the tense situation in this section. Earlier, some informants had said the demonstration was abandoned to avoid a "martial display."

Earlier today the Greek Ministry of Public Order reported that three sailors aboard a minesweeper in the Gulf of Volos had been killed when the vessel was attacked by Communist-operated shore mortars and that two soldiers had been killed and six wounded in a ten-hour pitched battle near Volos yesterday with a band of 300 men. The Ministry said the civilian band had heavy losses. In single incidents in Athens, two Rightists also were killed yesterday, it was added.

### British Scout Rocket Reports

Admiral Cassidy said at his news conference that the squadron was here for two reasons—it is the policy of the United States to show the flag in all parts of the world and to offer a chance of modern battle training for the destroyers and cruisers now stationed in the Mediterranean.

The squadron will leave Monday for Malta, Algiers, Tangier and Casablanca before sailing to United States waters for scheduled maneuvers later.

Admiral Cassidy said he was "vastly impressed with the friendship these people have for America, and the reception could not have been more cordial. Everywhere we have gone we have been met with cheers and applause."

The British Embassy issued a news release tonight discounting reports that flying rockets had been seen over northern Greece.

The release, emphasizing that no British officer had reported seeing such missiles, said the rockets could have been a type of flare, such as a Very pistol, a number of which have been reported in the same area.