Secretary Ward's Plea

'17th' Speech Asks Semi-Mobilization

South Boston's annual St. Patrick's-Evacuation Day celebration opened on an ominous military note today when Secretary of State Joseph D. Ward, speaking at the historical Dorchester Heights exercises, called for "partial mobilization" of our armed forces as an answer to Soviet threats to Berlin.

Calling up our armed forces, Ward declared, would "show both our friends and our enemies that we are prepared ... if we are to lead the free world and block the further advance of Communism."

"We must lead from strength," the state official told a small gathering on windswept Dorchester Heights where on this day 183 years ago Colonial troops stood in such menacing array they forced the British to evacuate.

Following in the wake of President Eisenhower's "we will not retreat one inch" speech last night, Ward's remarks carried an ominous message.

Cardinal Cushing, presiding at the annual St. Patrick's Day Pontifical high Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, called for "fervent prayer" in the face of the frightening world picture today.

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Boston Globe, March 17, 1959

Luck o' the Irish Holds, Sun Shines on 500,000 Wearers of the Green



CLOSEUP LOOK—South Boston boys, John Anotova, 9, left, and Vincent Sperrazza, 8, take positions right up front with Marines during Evacuation Day exercises at Dorchester Heights this morning.



HISTORICAL EXERCISES for Evacuation Day were held at Dorchester Heights today. Left to right, Horace Still, chairman; Mayor Hynes; Secretary of State Joseph Ward; Alan Brooks, chairman, citizens committee; Wincent McCarthy, commander, Disabled Veterans; Atty, Gen. Edward McCormack; Joseph Feeney, president, Citizens Assn., and Henry Bock, chief marshal.

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governor, the mayor and other state and city officials were located at West Broadway and C st.
Gold Star Mothers reviewed the line of march from a stand at O and East 4th sts.
The chief marshal's stand was placed at the Archbishop Cushing High School on West Broadway, near Dorchester avenue.