

Skepticism Meets Report Of Russian Atom Bomb

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Says Test Already Made
In London, Dr. J. R. Armistead, a British atomic physicist, said today that the Russian atom bomb "already had been tested and was found to have a horizontal pulverization range of 53 miles and a vertical lift of 62 miles."

"The temperature generated

was in the neighborhood of several million degrees centigrade," Dr. Armistead asserted, adding that the purported bomb could be manufactured on a "mass production scale."

(In Washington, atomic bomb experts recalled that considerable testimony was presented before the Senate Atomic Energy Committee that it would be several years before any other nation would produce an atom bomb, even with the knowledge possessed in this country, but they

declined any direct comment on the London report.

Mr. Truman said he endorsed fully yesterday's statement by Secretary of State Byrnes that the atomic bomb secret was in no danger under the Moscow agreement.

Mr. Truman told questioners that he had no information to indicate the Russians had developed an atomic bomb.

The President also told a news conference that the agreements providing for recognition of the Romanian, Polish and Yugoslav governments were conditional and that he would have the final say.

Kidnaper Murders Child Victim; Cuts Up Corpse

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muslin laundry bag with initials "U. S." found in a nearby basement, two black hairs found on the chest of the torso.

Meantime in Baltimore, Md., where the Degnan family formerly lived, prayers were said in Catholic Churches for Suzanne, who was known there as a chubby, honey-haired, friendly "worrywart" of the Degnan's neighbors.

Disemboweled Parts Found

The tragic news of Suzanne's death was told to her grief-stricken parents, James E. and Helen Degnan, by their parish priest last night shortly after the finding of the severed head of the little girl in a catchbasin near an apartment building about a half block from the Degnan home.

About five hours later the left leg, severed at the thigh with a clean cut, was discovered in a sewer in a nearby alley. The right leg and parts of the torso were removed from another sewer in an alley a block south and near the Degnan home. Later the remainder of the torso, minus the arms, was found in another sewer, also less than a block from the home.

Police said the torso was found in a sugar sack and also inside the bag was a pair of girl's blue pajamas, which fitted the description of the clothing worn by Suzanne when she was kidnaped.

Other Parents Terrorized

The brutality of the crime shocked the city. Hundreds of persons milled near the Degnan home throughout the night as scores of police toured the area in response to pleas from parents terrorized after news of the finding of the child's body. Many pleaded for police protection for their children until the killer had been apprehended.

Mayor Kelly termed the slaying "even too horrible for a maniac." Police Captain John L. Sullivan called the killer a "sadistic fool—motivated by both lust and money."

Ransom Was Offered

The parents, since the discovery of Suzanne's kidnaping at 7:30 A. M. Monday, had maintained hope throughout yesterday that they would get their child back by paying \$20,000, as demanded in a note left in her room.

Degnan, 36-year-old supervisory executive of the Chicago Metropolitan Office of Price Administration, had appealed by radio to the kidnapers to return his child and he would pay the ransom. He pleaded with his daughter to obey her abductor.

But his appeals and pleadings were of no avail. Police theorized that Suzanne, who was a first grade pupil in the Sacred Heart Academy, had been killed almost immediately after the kidnaper snatched her from her bed at a time estimated around 3 A. M.

Coroner A. L. Brodie said today that a physician's autopsy showed that Suzanne probably was raped before she was strangled to death by the fiendish killer.

Demobilization Pace

Approved by Truman

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mous size of the task involved and the fact that the United States "must assume its full share of responsibility for keeping the peace and destroying the war-making potential of the hostile nations that were bent on keeping the world in a state of warfare."

The slowdown in the Army's rate of demobilization, he declared, is not an arbitrary action

but "an inescapable need of the nation in carrying out its obligation in this difficult and critical postwar period."

Asserting "the future of our country now is as much at stake as it was in the days of the war," the President declared: "We must devote all necessary strength to building a firm foundation for the future peace of the world."

Release Speed Cited

To satisfy himself that demobilization is proceeding with all possible speed, the President said he had made a new review of Army and Navy procedures.

"The Army has now released well over half the 8,300,000 in service when the European fighting stopped," Mr. Truman's statement continued. "More than four and three quarter million men and women have passed through the separation centers."

Out of a peak strength of 3,500,000, the President said, the Navy has returned close to a million and a quarter to civilian life while the Marine Corps has discharged more than 183,000 of nearly 486,000 men. He added the Coast Guard with 180,000, has demobilized over 74,000.

"These numbers are staggering when you consider what they mean in ships, in extensive staffs required to carry out processing before discharge, and in rail transport sufficient to carry these Soldiers, Sailors and Marines to their homes once they reach our ports," the statement went on. "The wonder is not that some of our soldiers, sailors and marines are not yet home, but that so many are already back at their own firesides."

Pressure on Congress

As doughboys still demonstrated in the Pacific, Europe and right outside the capital at Andrews Field, the slowdown in the Army's demobilization pro-

gram brought these congressional repercussions:

1. Demands for a congressional investigation of the entire program as requested by 12,000 American soldiers in a resolution adopted yesterday at Manila.

2. The possibility of a rush of signatures, when Congress reconvenes next week, to a House petition that would force immediate action on demobilization legislation.

There was a strong probability that the House Military Committee would order an investigation, or at least an informal inquiry, although Chairman May was said by colleagues to feel that the Army is doing the best it can.

Letters, telegrams and petitions demanding action have started piling up in the committee's quarters. And one member commented privately that because this is a congressional election year, "they are likely to receive some attention."

Western Union Strike Begun in New York City

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workers Union strike of some 800,000 members is set for next Monday, there will be no walkout in the plant of Lehigh Foundries, Inc., at Easton, Pa., employing 600 workers. Company and union officials have signed an interim agreement providing for an immediate 12 cents an hour increase graduating to 21 cents an hour maximum as production and tonnage increases.

As the strike of 17,000 employees in Western Pacific plants in New York and New Jersey entered its sixth day, there were two threats which might bring a coast-to-coast work stoppage of telephone workers, probably tomorrow.

The telephone tie-up was a pos-

sibility by action of either the communications equipment workers or the National Federation of Telephone Workers, both independent unions, and both affiliated with the striking Independent Western Electric Employees Association.

The WEEA is seeking a 30 per cent wage increase and the walk-out by the NFW would be in sympathy with the strikers. A poll by the federation on strike action is expected to be disclosed tomorrow.

Strike Averting Sought

The federal conciliation service in Washington acted to halt the scheduled strike January 21 of 30,000 CIO workers at 11 International Harvester Company plants. Shortly after the CIO United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers Union announced the strike call, the conciliation service said a fact-finding panel

would be named by Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach to investigate the union's demand for a 30 per cent wage increase. The union was asked to cancel the strike.

At least \$71,000,000 is being collected in America to finance the Catholic and Protestant churches and missions of Europe and Asia.

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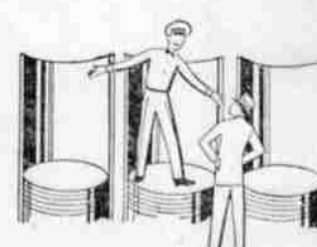
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