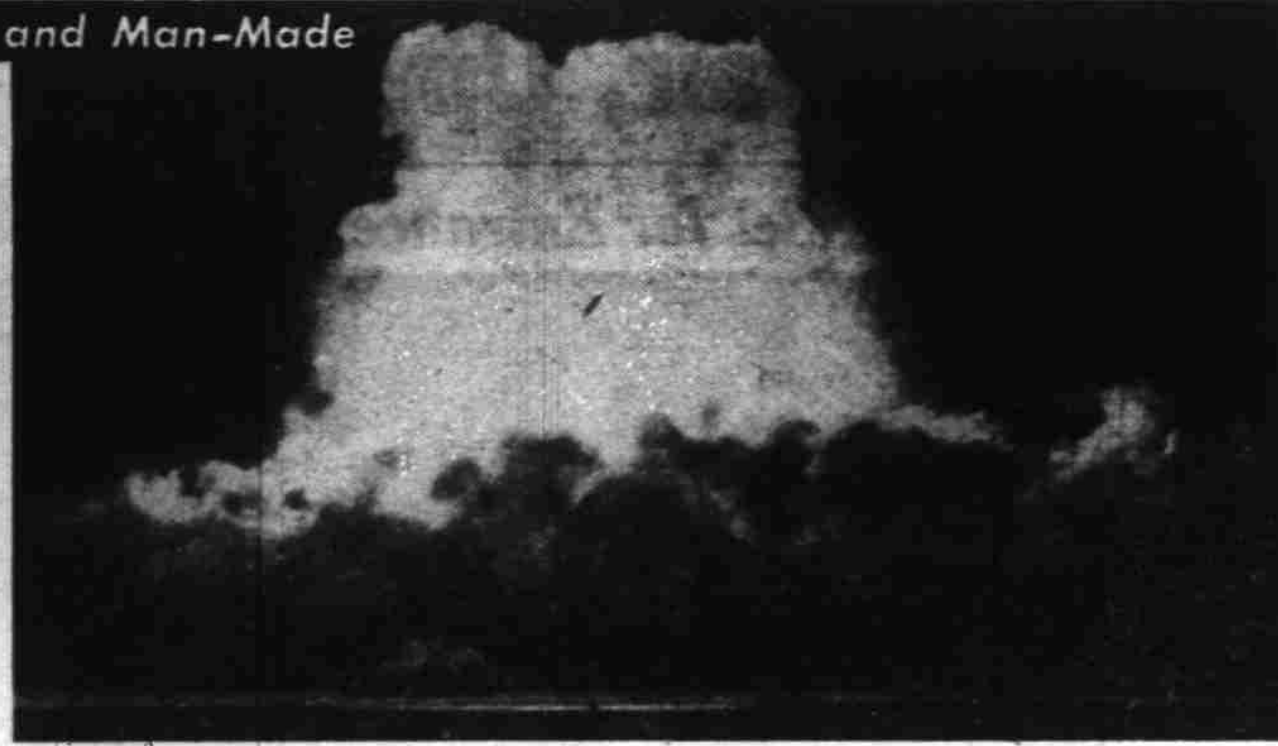


DISASTERS: Nature's and Man-Made



FIRE—Firemen near Bordeaux frantically reel out hose against a forest fire which killed 85 persons, cut a swath 20 miles wide and 30 long, forcing evacuation of many towns and villages. More than 1,500 troops fought it.



ATOM BOMB—The familiar smoke plume with its deadly rain of radioactivity is just beginning to form in this photo taken at the U.S. supersecret proving grounds on Eniwetok atoll in the Marshall Islands. Tests were made in 1948 but pictures were just released.



STORM—Billboards in Shanghai bear mute witness to fury of a July 24 typhoon, which killed 29 persons, made 200,000 homeless. Water up to six feet deep surged through streets. It was the city's worst typhoon since 1915.

Britain Wants Dough Not Advice From U.S.

ENGLAND is in dire financial straits but proud, haughty Britons are sensitive to criticism from the United States. Britain's economic chief, Sir Stafford Cripps, and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin are to confer in Washington September 6 or 7 with U.S. Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder and Secretary of State Dean Acheson about the empire's economic crisis. Preliminary talks among their technical aides have already begun.

Meanwhile Britain is seething with resentment. Declared one Labor member of Parliament last week: "We would rather take the risk of civilizing Communism than being kicked around by the unlettered, pot-bellied money magnates of the United States. Decency and not dollars will save the world from war."

War Insurance
The feeling in a sizeable segment of the British public is that Americans have forgotten the heroic role they played in the last war and that the present economic crisis stems directly from that struggle. Britons argue that America may need their country badly in the next world war and that it is to American advantage to get Britain back on an even economic keel.

There has been criticism in Congress of British fiscal and political policies. There is certain to be more. Why, ask Congressional critics, should American capitalist dollars continue to underwrite costly British socialist experiments? Why haven't British sterling bloc policies been revised to permit free world trade without crippling tariffs and duties in the colonies? What about unilateral treaties such as the recent British-Argentine treaty on beef?

A Customs Union?
Some Washington economic experts even go so far as to predict that Britain cannot survive as a world power without completely unhampered access to American markets. They think the time will come when the only way to keep Britain alive will be to join it with the U.S. in a customs union, sharing a common currency and a completely integrated economy.

Since the war, America has granted Britain a \$3,750,000 loan and extensive Marshall Plan aid in 1947, 1948 and 1949. The belief then in some reluctant sectors of Congress was that dollars would buy time for reconstruction and that Britain would do the rest by itself.

There is a different feeling now in those legislative circles. They believe now that dollars alone will no longer solve the British problem. These critics say Britain must drastically revise its industrial system, currency valuation and foreign commitments before there can be any real hope for a healthy economy.

They want the pound devalued from its present rate of \$4.03 to some substantially lower sum. They want emphasis on technical rather than political revamping of heavy industry and an end to social experiments until the economic crisis is over.

Canada Sits In
Canada is to sit in on the economic talks, too, as a vastly interested third party.

Diplomatic experts believe it may take the highest type of statesmanship to prevent the conference from hurting instead of improving Anglo-American relations.

Some believe that the best that can be expected of the forthcoming Washington parley is possible agreement on some short-range measures and perhaps a decision to meet again shortly for another look at the empire's economic thermometer.

Sidelights

● In North Tonawanda, N. Y., a New York Central locomotive is cooking pickles. It was leased by a pickle firm after the plant steam boiler blew up and a \$3,000 batch of dills was in danger of spoiling.

● In Portland, Ore., Becky a cat with unorthodox ideas, is mothering four baby birds, orphaned by other felines.

● In Kennewick, Wash., Bud Allen, radio entertainer, stopped talking after 110 hours of continuous broadcasting, by doctor's orders. He was raising funds for a proposed \$100,000 hospital.

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The WORLD This WEEK

YUGOSLAVIA: Is Tito Headed for War?

ALMOST a year ago when the Russian "peace offensive" first became apparent, there was speculation that the Kremlin might be taking the heat off the cold war to concentrate on certain internal problems.

Paramount among those problems was the defection, a few months earlier, of Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito. Tito had the temerity to refuse complete subservience to Moscow. Adherence to Party discipline is a cardinal tenet of Communism. Violators of that principle were not only read out of the Party but frequently liquidated.

Tito, as a rugged individualist, became a dangerous symbol from Moscow's point of view. He was a potential crack in the Iron Curtain beyond which the hostile capitalist world had to be held at bay.

Nothing that has happened since has served to undermine that theory. That crack may be widening. For the first time Tito was praised from within the Iron Curtain. An east German Communist group—composed of Marxists of long standing—announced the formation of a Free Communist Party (FKP) pledged to fight for nationalism against "Soviet imperialism." The new party immediately wired its sympathy and support to Tito.

Diplomats in world capitals have been keeping a close watch on developments ever since Tito was expelled from the Cominform. The



A GOOD BET



SALUTE FROM A SATELLITE

strategy patently was to incite Tito's overthrow from within his own country.

Moscow Takes the Lead
The difference now is that Moscow itself is pressing the issue instead of leaving it to the satellites.

The current war of nerves was initiated last weekend when Russia warned Yugoslavia in a diplomatic note that it was prepared to take "effective measures" to protect the rights of Soviet citizens within Yugoslav borders.

The stern Soviet note was like a sinister echo across a decade. It had the ring of Nazi propaganda before Adolf Hitler marched protective troops into Austria, Poland and a

host of other little neighbor nations. The London press noted the diplomatic threat was in the very language of Hitler's "exhausted patience." The conservative Daily Mail recalled Hitler's words: "My patience is exhausted. I must march to restore order."

A Calm View
But the British foreign office took a calmer view. Whitehall said the Russians want Yugoslavia to think she is in danger of attack. Diplomats conceded that the Kremlin would incite, if possible, a Yugoslav revolt against Tito and that it would look with favor on any attempt to assassinate the marshal.

Whitehall ruled out any likelihood

that the current Moscow-Belgrade dispute would progress to a shooting war, despite mounting tension.

U.S. Aid for Tito
The current American policy has been to do business with Tito, not because his brand of communism is less objectionable, but because Tito represents a revolt against Moscow within the satellite sphere.

Last week the U.S. granted Tito permission to buy a three million dollar steel mill at Pittsburgh. In Paris, Eugene R. Black, Jr., American president of the World Bank, said his organization was considering a loan to Yugoslavia, but a much smaller one than the 250 million dollars Tito has requested.

Trends

Gobble, Gobble

Housewives were given a hot tip this week for the home plate at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

The Agriculture Department says turkeys should be more plentiful and cheaper than in former years.

The 1949 crop, statisticians say, will be the second largest in the nation's history and the biggest since the war—41,107,000, to be precise.

The increases this year, compared with the short supply in 1948, range from three per cent in New York State to 121 per cent in Arkansas.

Arable Land

Russia, alone of the world's major nations, is not participating in the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of World Resources.

Now in session at Lake Success, the conference is surveying global shortages in food, forests, fuels and energy. Scientists say it is a start toward establishing the resource potential of every country, raising the world's standard of living and thereby laying a foundation for preserving peace.

Agricultural experts of 50 nations estimate the world has only about four billion acres of arable land to feed and clothe its two and one-quarter billion people. Much of the land is mediocre and growing worse while population is increasing by 20 million a year—faster than ever.

Religion

Onward Christians

The United States has 79,576,352 church members and about 60 per cent of these are Protestants, reports The Christian Herald, unofficial Protestant publication, in its annual compilation of religious organizations.

The survey shows that last year's religious membership gain was 2,190,164 as compared with the end of 1947.

There was little change indicated in the relative strengths of the nation's faiths. The report said: "The U.S. is about 60 per cent Protestant, 33 per cent Roman Catholic, 6 per cent Jewish and 1 per cent divided among such groups as Russian and Greek Orthodox, Spiritualists, Buddhists and others."

The nation's 222 Protestant denominations totaled 47,557,203 members, a gain of 1,407,527 from last year. Preponderance of Protestant strength—93 per cent—is in 31 larger denominations.

Total of Roman Catholics was 26,075,697, an increase of 807,524 from last year, as reported by Catholic sources.

The biggest Protestant denominations is the Methodist, with 8,651,524.

U.N.

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Survey

Through Neutral Eyes

The American worker is much better off than his Russian counterpart, according to a neutral Norwegian survey.

The Economic Cooperation Administration (Marshall Plan) has issued a booklet comparing tabulations of fact-finding trips to the United States and Russia by separate delegations of the Norwegian General Federation of Trade Unions.

It shows: "The average American worker earns a loaf of bread with five minutes work; it takes a Russian two hours."

An American buys a pound of meat with half an hour of labor; a Russian needs a day.

An American can buy a woolen suit after 25 hours of work; a Russian needs two months to earn enough rubles.

The Norwegians reported their visit to the United States gave them "greater confidence in the ability of democracy to solve its problems."

They said: "The country is still wrestling with many great problems. Its economic life is unstable. Its social life is complicated by racial prejudices and frictions. The country is still in the melting pot (stage). But it is moving forward culturally, socially and economically."

The Norwegian fact-finders said they thought American social security inadequate, especially in the matter of health insurance. They said certain areas appeared to be lacking in social and economic development.

The booklet quoted Norwegians as reporting on the Soviet standard of living:

"The average wage is sufficient only for absolute necessities of life. The ordinary family can hardly live on the husband's earnings alone and women are forced into heavy industry, such as street and construction work, dock hands and factory jobs."

"There is hardly a country where the government so consciously keeps the standard of living down in order to ensure a speedy reconstruction as in the Soviet Union."

Quotes

Bernarr Macfadden, 81-year-old physical culturist, on making his first parachute jump: "It was wonderful coming down."

Fred Allen, comedian, commenting on ban on giveaway programs: "They've been giving away ice boxes on radio for years. But when they started giving away deep freezers in Washington, that started this upheaval. Down in Washington, they didn't even have a program."

AERIAL: The B-36 Probe

Aid to the Enemy

"I think one of the greatest disservices to the country has been given by these anonymous charges against the B-36 which have resulted in dragging out into open view these figures on performance that should be highly secret. . . . All that gives information to the enemy and the consequences are obvious."

Gen. Carl Spaatz, retired chief of the Air Force, made this statement last week to the House Armed Services Committee investigating charges of irregularity in procurement of the intercontinental bomber.

Previously Spaatz testified that it was his opinion that if it weren't for

the B-36 and the atom bomb, Russia could subdue "practically all of Europe and Asia in a relatively short time."

Spaatz told the committee that in December, 1946, or January, 1947, he decided to continue a contract for B-36s.

He said he made this decision because "the results to be obtained from possession of an intercontinental bomber were so enormous as to justify going ahead and taking the chance of failure, just as was done in developing the atomic bomb which this plane was designed to deliver."

Spaatz was the first of a string of generals to deny that outside pressure of any kind had influenced Air Force decisions to develop the giant B-36. The former commander also made it a point to urge restoration of funds for a 70-group Air Force.

It would be very dangerous, Spaatz said, to hold the national protective umbrella to 48 groups because "some of our friends in Europe" had made certain plans on the basis of an Amer 70-group Air Force.

"This 70-group force," Spaatz added, "should not be built at the expense of the program of arms aid to Europe."

Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore) revealed the California phase of the B-36 investigation had produced nothing to substantiate charges against the huge bomber.

In Short . . .

Reported: By the U.S. State Department, that it would switch from military to civilian control of occupied Germany by September 15.

Threatened: By Malta, to throw out the British and offer their strategic Mediterranean port to the United States as a naval base unless it gets a slice of Britain's ERP (Marshall Plan) funds.

Announced: September 1 closing of two-thirds of the rent control offices in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia, because of a Congressional cut in appropriations.



NO LETDOWN AT 81—Physical culturist Bernarr Macfadden is greeted in a hay field by his wife after making his first parachute jump. He says he did it to prove "growing old is nonsense."

