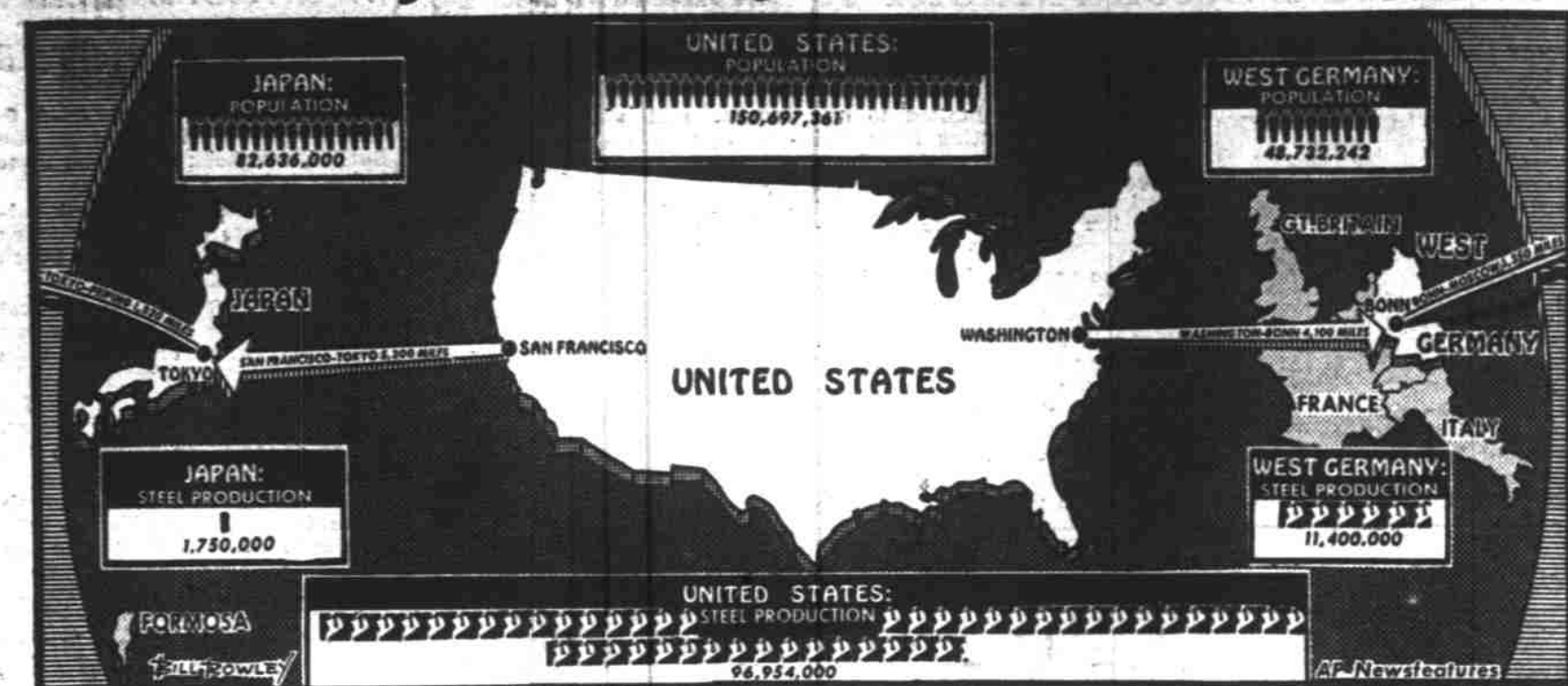


Here's Why We May Rearm Reich, Japan



By John L. Springer
A prophet who forecast it five years ago would probably have had his reason examined. But it has come to this:

The anti-communist democracies seem to be moving toward the rearming of Germany and Japan as rapidly as possible.

Searching for power to hold off what President Truman calls Russia's plans for world domination, the Allies have inevitably turned to these former Axis powers which stoutly battled the rest of the world for five years.

Germany and Japan are not what they used to be. But what they are could be extremely helpful to a western world that weakened itself, converting to peace, while Russia kept mobilizing for war.

Together, Japan and west Germany (those zones of the former Reich now under Allied control) have 130,000,000 people. Their population is two-thirds that of Russia.

Together, Japan and west Germany produce an estimated 20,000,000 tons of steel a year—more than two-thirds of Russia's estimated 27,000,000 tons.

Both countries have come back remarkably from the bombed wrecks they were in 1945. Today they are producing heavy industrial materials equal to, or greater than, their prewar outputs.

Both are becoming major industrial powers again, ranking with England and France.

The world's strain has now become so great that these powers probably can not sit on the fence, as in a way they have been doing, for much longer. Foreign affairs analysts believe they must soon go all-out, on one side or the other.

If the Kremlin moves in and lines them up, the result as Truman warned in his message to Congress last week, would be truly catastrophic. If rearmed by the west, U. S. military men believe, they might defend themselves—in part—against communist aggression.

But Allied hopes to write the former enemies into over-all defense plans against communism will not be realized easily.

For one thing, the Russians object. They have been reported creating an army of

east Germans, incorporating the peoples east of Berlin into their mobilized sphere with a dictator's ruthlessness. But they thunder against Allied proposals to rearm the west Germans, and there have even been thinly-veiled threats that they would fight over the issue. They were similarly irate when Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander of the Allied powers in Tokyo, told the Japanese that they might have to "mount force to repel force."

Another objection comes from the west Germans and Japanese themselves. Polls made among the formerly militaristic Teutons reveals a disturbing unwillingness to shoulder arms again.

And the Japanese are almost unanimously opposed to setting up a new army and navy unless a peace treaty recognizes their independence again.

The Allies spent millions of lives to get these Axis peoples to lay down their arms. Evidently the job was better done than most people realized. For it is a tremendous task to get them to pick up their guns again.

Avalanches in Switzerland Fatal to 32

GENEVA, Switzerland, Jan. 20.—At least 32 persons have been killed and many others are missing in an unprecedented series of avalanches in eastern Switzerland in the last 24 hours.

The death toll was given as a minimum by the semi-official Swiss news agency late tonight after a day of frantic rescue operations in scores of villages and Alpine valleys.

Firemen, police, soldiers, frontier guards and civilian workers still worked to dig out from mountains of snow any victims who might still be alive.

Rescue operations were hampered by broken communications and continuing heavy snowfall. No trains can move in the stricken area and warnings of still more avalanches kept all traffic off the few roads remaining open.

In Northern Italy
The avalanches were not confined to Switzerland. A report from Milan said there had been four deaths from slides in northern Italy. In Austria, at least three persons have been killed.

Thick, wet snow has been falling in eastern Switzerland at a rate of nearly two inches an hour for more than 24 hours. The smallest drift can grow quickly into a mass weighing tons. The new weight breaks the crust on older layers and a deadly avalanche crashes into a valley below.

The series of disasters began at Zerne, near the Swiss national park, last night when an elderly road worker was killed by one of the first slides reported. Six men trying during the night to dig him out were swept away by more slides at the same spot.

Villages Evacuated
Many villages in the 15,000-

square mile affected area are being evacuated under military orders and army units are bombarding threatening snow masses with mortars in efforts to minimize their destructiveness.

In several cases, avalanches have crashed into the hearts of villages, flattening most of the buildings. Three such slides hit the winter resort of Andermatt, where at least five persons were known dead or missing.

At many places, the inhabitants were surprised by avalanches where none had ever been known before.

GRAND

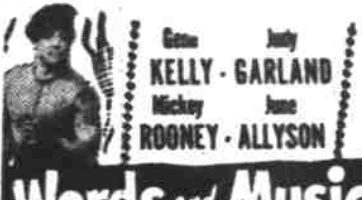
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New Testing Ground Indicates U.S. Seeking A-Explosives for Entire Range of War Weapons

By Howard W. Blakeslee

Associated Press Science Editor

NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—(AP)—Establishment of the new atom-testing range in Nevada indicates we are working toward atomic explosives for the entire range of war weapons. Success would mean a new line of weapons to substitute gradually for ordinary explosives.

The goal appears to be a variety of weapons smaller, more compact, lighter in weight, more easily delivered. Not only bombs which can be delivered by many rather than by just a few types of planes, but war heads delivered by many other methods for many other purposes.

The virtually universal belief that there can be no atomic explosion except a big one is not even historically correct. The British A-bomb report, issued simultaneously with the American Smyth report, revealed that there is a smaller explosion.

American experts said nothing about this possibility. But last August's U. S. government publication, "The Effect of Atomic Weapons," officially acknowledged this. Both the British and the American reports used the same term—atomic fission.

The British went further—saying this A-explosion might be little different in energy than conventional explosives. That rating seemed to wipe out worthwhile military uses, especially because it seemed to imply that except a full-size A-bomb could fizzle, and that would be a sheer waste. But the rating did not wipe out the scientific possibility that further study might show how to control a fizzle to get an explosion somewhere between an A-bomb and TNT.

May Be Handicap
For war, the great power of an A-bomb may be a handicap at times, because many targets are not large enough. From the first, both military men and scientific advisers said an atomic bomb could do greater damage if the same power could be divided into smaller, separate explosions to spread over a wider area.

The small-explosion A-bomb has not been realized. But A-bombs that can be carried in smaller planes are an official fact. This development has gone almost unnoticed. It is still generally supposed that only the B-29, B-50 or B-36 bombers are capable of carrying an A-bomb. The weights of these three run from 135,000 pounds to more than 300,000 each.

Attack Plane
However, the navy has two smaller A-bomb carriers. One is the A-J 1, of 55,000 pounds. This is a carrier-based plane. It is furthermore an attack plane. The navy's Neptune also can carry an A-bomb. The Neptune is a land-based plane, which can land and take off from carriers. It is heavier than the A-J 1 attack plane.

A new 600-mile-an-hour jet bomber is being produced, but so far as reported these planes are for "old" bombs.

Still another official fact almost completely overlooked is the "possibility of a small nuclear explosion," to use the words in the January, 1950, semi-annual report of

coming Nevada explosions "experimental nuclear detonations." That covers a large area of secret possibilities. One certainly has to do with bombs of greater power. A reasonable guess is A-bombs of reduced size and lighter weight.

Some Los Alamos experiments are done by crews a quarter mile away, using remote control and television. A quarter mile is the usual safety limit for a reactor—or atomic oven—when unshielded. The minimum safety limit from an A-bomb explosion is a mile-and-a-half. The limit for a smaller explosion has not been published.

The Nevada range will furnish a variety of safety possibilities. The commission announced that hydrogen bombs will not be tested in Nevada. This, however, does not preclude testing of the behavior of fusing hydrogen—fusing being the reaction which explodes an H-bomb. Hydrogen-testing has been under way on a laboratory scale at Los Alamos. Even laboratory tests, while still small-scale, might reach the stage where safety of personnel makes large space desirable. There is a special reason for testing small amounts of

hydrogen under controlled conditions. This is the published prediction of scientists that if a little hydrogen can be made to explode, then any amount whatever can also be exploded.

Flu Epidemic Hits Alabama

GORDA, Ala., Jan. 20.—(AP)—A mounting flu epidemic in this west Alabama town of 1,200 affected 250 persons today.

Dr. L. C. Davis, the town's only doctor, said 157 school children were absent from school Friday and he asked that all schools remain closed through Wednesday.

The epidemic started two weeks ago, Davis reported, and "there's no let-up in sight." He himself was among the early victims.

The physician said the flu is in a mild form and few cases have developed complications so far.

PLAN POSTWAR LINK

NEW DELHI.—(AP)—The government of India has agreed to the establishment of the Japanese overseas agencies at New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, a commerce ministry official said here. This is the first official link of the post-war Japan with India. These agencies will have both commercial and consular functions but no consular status.

hydrogen under controlled conditions. This is the published prediction of scientists that if a little hydrogen can be made to explode, then any amount whatever can also be exploded.

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