

**Butter \$1.83**

# Russians Up Food Prices

By PRESTON GROVER  
Of the Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Friday hiked consumer prices of meat and butter to finance the country's lagging agricultural program in the face of food shortages.

Butter—up 25 per cent—will retail for 88 cents a pound; pork and beef—up 30 per cent—will retail for 88 cents a pound.

The effect of the increases are measured against salaries much lower than those in most foreign countries. A semi-skilled Soviet worker gets the equivalent of \$88 a month, professional people about \$222 a month.

The government announcement said that the increased charges were necessary because there was no other means of raising money to pay the increased expenses on farms.

## Arms Talks To Recess For Summer

GENEVA (AP) — The Western powers and the Soviet Union reluctantly agreed Friday to a neutralist proposal for a summer recess of the disarmament talks.

The 17-nation conference will go into recess in mid-June and reconvene Monday, July 16. The interruption of the talks, which opened March 14, was proposed by the eight non-aligned participants — Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic.

Acting U.S. Delegate Charles C. Stelle, Gen. E. L. M. Burns of Canada, British Minister of State Joseph B. Godber and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valerin A. Zorin delivered virtually identical statements saying they would have preferred to continue negotiations, but were willing to take into account the views of other delegations.

Zorin did not mention his original suggestion last month that the conference recess for two months and resume in New York rather than in Geneva.

Zorin continued Friday to denounce the United States for its refusal to bow to Soviet insistence that all military delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons be destroyed and all foreign military bases be eliminated in the first stage of disarmament.

Stelle replied that the U.S. disarmament plan does indeed provide for gradual elimination of military bases and nuclear armaments and criticized Zorin's statement for what he called its lack of logic.

The order for the increase in prices was issued by the Communist party central committee and the government. Its effect was law since all stores are government stores and the prices are fixed by decree.

**Cost Increase**

The statement said the cost of producing food, meat and butter had increased sharply because of the expenditures on mechanization on the farms.

The announcement made it plain that people in the cities are going to bear the lion's share of the burden of the increased prices. That will tend to level out the living standards of the city and country groups. Normally city people have lived better in the Soviet Union because of a sharp salary and income advantage accorded them from the time of the revolution.

**State Totals 500 Spanish War Veterans**

An estimated 500 veterans of the Spanish-American War now live in Oregon.

R. J. Novotny, manager of the Veterans Administration regional office in Portland, released the estimate this week. Average age of Oregon's Spanish-American war veterans, he said, was 84 years.

Some 392,000 men served in the war, and the roll of living veterans — according to national VA figures — has dropped to 28,000 men. Some 26,000 of these are on the VA compensation or pension rolls.

The surviving veterans are heavily concentrated in California, where there are some 4,000 men. Florida, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania each have some 2,000 veterans of the war.

VA officials also report that family survivors of 70,000 deceased veterans of the Spanish-American War are receiving death compensation or pension payments through the VA.

**Rail Crash Investigated**

VOGHERA, Italy (AP) — A freight train engineer and his assistant say they saw no warning lights but jumped to safety before their locomotive hit the rear of a passenger train Thursday, killing 82 and injuring 70.

One of the injured died Friday, increasing the death toll to 63.

The engineer, Lafranco Pigianni, 27, and Soriano Fabbri, 22, told police their first warning of Italy's fourth major rail disaster in five months came only seconds before impact. They said they set the emergency brake before jumping.

The Italian Transport Ministry said visibility was good and signal lights were working, warning that the Riviera-bound passenger train was stopped in the station, blocking the tracks. Survivors and station employees said they heard no sound of braking before the freight slammed into the express.

**Artillery Opens Up**

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP) — The Chinese Communists fired 47 shells at the Quemoy Islands Thursday.

**Mali Leader Leaves**

MOSCOW (AP) — Mobido Keita, president of Mali, left Moscow for Communist Czechoslovakia Thursday with Soviet promises of further aid for his country. A joint communique at the end of Keita's week-long visit said the Soviet Union had agreed to render technical assistance and material aid to the former French colony.

**There, Gramps**

Charles S. Oram, 64, of Cambridge, Mass., has his grandson Mark H. Fineman, 8, make a slight adjustment on his graduation cap in preparation for Boston University commencement exercises this Sunday. Oram, looking forward to a new career, will receive a bachelor's degree. He hopes to get a job teaching Spanish. He has been a farm hand, railroad worker, steamfitter and truck driver.



(AP Wirephoto)

## On Forming Neutral Government Laotian Princes Plan Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States expects to know within a week if a neutral government can be formed in Laos, removing the Southeast Asian kingdom from the cold war arena.

If the coalition efforts do not succeed, Secretary of State Dean Rusk told a news conference Thursday, "then of course, some very serious problems will be in front of us."

He did not spell out the nature of the problems, but obviously was referring to a continuation of a drive by pro-Communist Pathet Lao guerrillas to complete their conquest of the country.

Rusk emphasized that the present need is to keep what he called a tenuous cease-fire in being and to permit the three political princes of Laos to explore whether or not a coalition government is possible.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, a neutralist who would head the coalition government, is scheduled to meet with King Savang Vathana on Monday in the royal capital of Luang Prabang. After that meeting Souvanna Phouma is expected to call in Prince Boun Oum, leader of the royal government, and Prince Souphanouvong, Pathet Lao chief.

Rusk said the main objective of negotiations for a coalition government is to get non-Laotians out of Laos.

"We believe that if the Laotians could be left alone that they would be peaceful as far as their neighbors are concerned and work out their own affairs in a way that would not threaten any of their neighbors," Rusk said.

Rusk had particular reference to 4,000 to 5,000 North Vietnamese, who are holed up in the Pathet Lao. A withdrawal would include several hundred U.S. military advisers and would terminate the airlift of war material from both the United States and the Soviet Union to the opposing sides.

**Murrow to Speak**

PULLMAN (AP) — Edward R. Murrow, director of the U. S. Information Agency, will deliver the commencement address at Washington State University Sunday.

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# Rusk Plans Consultations With European Leaders

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER  
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Dean Rusk is planning a trip to Europe late this month to confer with Allied leaders about clearing up some of the policy splits in the Atlantic Alliance.

He is expected definitely to meet with West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. He may see French President Charles de Gaulle and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Rusk confirmed to a news conference Thursday that arrangements for a trip are being worked out. From other sources it was learned that he wants to talk to Adenauer about U.S.-Soviet discussions on a Berlin settlement and about future moves for greater Western European political unity, which the United States strongly supports.

Whether Rusk sees De Gaulle probably will be determined by progress in his conferences here with French Ambassador Herve Alphand. Rusk and Alphand met for two hours Monday and for 90 minutes Thursday on Paris-Washington policy differences. They apparently have no hope at present of ending major differences over De Gaulle's determination to give France an independent nuclear weapons force and his desire to promote a European grouping of national states with looser U.S. ties.

Rusk reasserted at his news conference that the United States is completely opposed to the De Gaulle plan for a French nuclear force. In response to a specific question he said the United States would not favor Britain's supplying nuclear weapons to France.

Rusk also challenged critics of administration foreign policy to come up with proposals for alternative lines of policy development if they really believe that the administration is following a no-win course.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., has accused the government of having a "no win" policy in the cold war.

Rusk rejected the charge but said "there is one point on which we do have to show some caution and that is the notion that victory in its usual sense is to be achieved by sudden military means."

On other foreign policy questions Rusk:

- Rejected Soviet Premier Khrushchev's call for a world-wide conference to form some new trade organization as an alternative to the development of the European Common Market. Rusk said Khrushchev was merely trying to create a diversion to the Common Market though he could understand that Khrushchev was concerned "about the evident growing economic vitality of the Free World."
- Expressed sharp disappointment at the Soviet Union's refusal to join with the United States and other nations in developing what Rusk calls a United Nations disarmament program. He said the United States could never accept a Leninist disarmament plan which would merely be a means of exposing countries to Communist subversion and infiltration.
- Declared that if Communist China requested relief supplies of food from the United States the request would receive serious consideration. But he said that no such request has been made.

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