

Scientist Pontecorvo May Be Engineering Russ Nuclear Schemes

By CHARLES M. McCANN
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If scientist Bruno Pontecorvo is telling the truth, he may be master minding some of those big schemes for utilizing nuclear energy of which Soviet Russia boasts.

Pontecorvo, disclosing that he had gone behind the Iron Curtain in 1950, implied, if he did not actually say, that he was working exclusively on research involving the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Of course, there is no essential reason to believe him. Italian-born Pontecorvo fled to France from the Fascists. When Germany invaded France in 1940, Pontecorvo sought refuge in Britain.

He became a naturalized British subject, learned Britain's atomic secrets and then betrayed them to Russia. A man who did that might well be a liar as well as a renegade.

But taking Pontecorvo at his word, he may be doing some practical work for the Kremlin as well as engaging in pure scientific research.

Russia claims the leadership in the peaceful use of atomic energy as well as of the manufacture of the hydrogen bomb and practically everything else. It would hardly be surprising to hear from the Moscow Radio a claim that some prehistoric Russian invented love.

But Russian science has been probing into the secrets of atomic energy for many years.

It was back in 1934 that Russian-born atomic scientist Peter Kapitzka, who had become world famous in his field through years of study in Britain, went to Russia on a visit and was kept there.

Russia also captured many German atomic scientists at the end of world war II and took them to aid in its research.

The late Andrei Y. Vishinsky really startled the world when he announced in the United Nations in November, 1949, that Russia was using atomic energy on a gigantic scale.

"We are utilizing atomic

energy for our economic needs," Vishinsky said. "We are razing mountains. We are irrigating deserts. We are cutting through the jungle and the tundra. We are spreading life, happiness, prosperity and welfare in places where the human footstep has not been seen for thousands of years."

Vishinsky's statement turned out to be somewhat premature—it was admitted that Russia merely planned to do all those things.

But in the years since then, Russia has worked steadily on energy, as well as on A-bombs and the peaceful use of nuclear and H-bombs.

Portland Recreation Center Bonds Sold

Portland — (U.P.) — A financial syndicate has purchased some \$8,000,000 worth of bonds to finance an exposition-recreation center here.

Purchasers were U. S. National Bank of Portland, National City Bank of New York, Blythe and Co., and 15 associates. Interest rate to be paid to the city will be 2.0051 per cent.

City auditor Will Gibson said the money received from the sale of the bonds would be deposited in local banks. He said the city hopes to receive a higher rate of interest than it is paying on the bonds themselves.

Burns Cooperative Store Destroyed

Burns — (U.P.) — A spectacular fire leveled McAllister's cooperative farm store here yesterday afternoon, wiping out stores of grain and hay and thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

Firemen said they were powerless to control the blaze which started about 1:30 p.m. probably from combustion in the grain.

The store, located on the edge of Burns, carried large stocks of furniture and groceries in addition to hay and grain. Owner of the establishment, J. M. McAllister, was out of town and could not be reached to estimate the loss.



NO FUN—An 18-inch fall of snow had weekend guests doing more shovelling than frolicking at Twin Peaks, Cal., as a Pacific Coast storm raged from the Sierras. Above is typical scene found in the Big Bear—Arrowhead Mountain area of Southern California.



WRITES FOR RUSSIA — Bruno Pontecorvo (above), British atomic scientist who vanished several years ago, is now in Russia, two Communist newspapers have revealed. The two papers carried an article by Pontecorvo calling for a worldwide ban on atomic weapons.

There are 1,889 accredited colleges, 23,746 high schools and 128,225 elementary schools in the United States and there are 1,242,249 teachers employed to staff them.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

This modern world note: In San Francisco, at the eerie hour of midnight, an air raid siren located high up on one of the numerous hills in the city of Saint Francis went off its rocker and for 41 minutes made night hideous over a wide area of the Bay region.

By coincidence, two air liners came in over the city at the same time. Putting two and two together, thousands of people came to the conclusion that this was IT—that the Russians HAD GONE AND DONE IT!

In the newspaper offices, in the news rooms of the radio stations, in the fire departments—everywhere that people might be expected to be up and around at midnight—the telephones began to ring and those who answered the calls describe the voices as in some cases frantic and in others hysterical.

WELL— That's modern life for you. It could have been the Russians.

ALL this suggests a thought. Can we of the modern world—which is presently shadowed by a set of crazy despots in the Kremlin, who themselves are crazed by the fear that hangs always over despots—STAND UP under the strain of living in a world in which at any moment doom might rain from the skies. Will we crack under it? Will our children be MARKED by this tension?

I THINK NOT. An ancestor of mine followed the trail blazed by Daniel Boone over the mountains into what is now Kentucky. There in the Dark and Bloody Ground, he settled down and built a cabin. To this cabin he brought his young wife. In the natural order of events, and without too much delay, his wife brought him a son.

All around this little family there were RED INDIANS, who were angered by this invasion of what had been their ancestral home. They were plotting revenge. AT ANY MOMENT, their revenge might take the form of an attack on this little cabin that sheltered this little family.

Such an attack could have meant death by an arrow, death by a knife thrust, death by the stroke of a tomahawk wielded by a savage arm, death in the flames of their cabin home fired by savage enemies.

OR— Worse still—

Death by savage torture. All this was EVER PRESENT.

CONSIDER for a moment the NIGHTS in this little cabin back in the Dark and Bloody Ground. The noises of the night. Every time this little family heard the hoot of an owl, it might be merely the hoot of an owl. But it could have been a SIGNAL by savages creeping in for the kill. The father and the mother never could know whether it was a SIGNAL or merely an owl hooting in the normal manner of owls.

WHAT I'm getting at is that life back in those days was just as grim, just as full of terrible possibilities as life in these modern days when at any moment atom bombs might come dropping down from the planes of marauding Communists.

BUT THEY SURVIVED IT.—those pioneer ancestors of ours back in the deep forests and the wide plains and the rugged mountains. And they stayed sane and clear-headed. They brought forth a sane and clear-headed generation to follow them. And a sane and clear-headed America emerged from it all.

So I'm pretty sure we'll survive this hair-trigger present period in which incidents like the going off its rocker by this siren in San Francisco at a moment when planes were over the city in the night and MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENEMY BOMBERS will be more or less common and will send us off into spasms of fear. Over the centuries, the human race has been surprisingly durable. I think it is still durable.

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