

Agreement Upon Raising of Iron Curtain Expected at Big Four Conference

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

AT GENEVA

Geneva — Even more than usual on these occasions, the great central question here is, of course, "What are the Russians really up to?" Communist party secretary Khrushchev has babbled happily to President Eisenhower about such matters as weddings and grandchildren, while Premier Bulganin, in his formal remarks, has sung an old familiar song as regards all the really important issues. The fact is that there is as yet very little really solid evidence as to whether there has been a genuine and important change in Soviet foreign policy. But at this early stage it is at least encouraging that the most experienced observers of all three Western powers, both here in Geneva and in Moscow are unanimous on one point. The Soviet rulers really do want to lessen tensions. They really do want to reduce the risk of world war. Interpreting Soviet policy, according to one who has interpreted it successfully in the past, is more a matter of the sense of smell than of assessing hard evidence.

And the best smellers all smell the same thing—a real if temporary and tactical, change. The best smellers also agree rather closely on the reasons for the change. These may be listed about as follows:

First, the Soviets, having exploded their own hydrogen bomb, have had time to ponder the nightmare meaning of hydrogen warfare. In Moscow there are reports — of course impossible to confirm — that the Russian experts, like our own underestimated the power of the bomb; and that as a result large numbers of Soviet scientists and soldiers were killed in their first test. In any case, there is plenty of evidence that the Russians, having had a good first-hand look at the new weapons, take them far more seriously than in the days before they broke the American monopoly.

PARADOXICALLY, the fact that the Chinese have not had the same sobering experience is one reason why experienced observers here believe that the threat of general war now lies far more in China than in Russia. Second, the Soviet leaders also want a breathing space from external danger in order to clean up all sorts of messy situations within the Soviet empire and the Soviet Union itself. Here it should be said, hastily and flatly, that the Sov-

iet system is not "on the point of collapse," or anywhere near the point of collapse. The Soviet rulers face a serious agricultural problem and a serious problem of inflation. But a system which has survived deliberate mass starvation and history's most terrible war is not going to founder overnight because of a drought. In fact the internal problem is really less economic than political.

The political problem confronting the Soviet leaders has been defined as the problem of running a dictatorship without a dictator. But it is even more complicated than that. It is also a problem of trying to run a dictatorship without even a clearly defined number one man here in Geneva, for the truth is, no one really knows who is the Soviet number one—sometimes it looks like Bulganin, and sometimes Khrushchev.

Just before this reporter left Moscow last Saturday, there were widespread reports that the question of a number one had been finally settled, and that after this conference Khrushchev would take over from Bulganin as Premier. But no one believes that the wily Khrushchev is within striking distance of wielding supreme power. And the Soviet system absolutely requires a dictator for it is a system which by its very nature must dictate every aspect of life, from the average of corn planted to the design of ladies' summer print dresses.

Yet the present Soviet rulers, probably even including Khrushchev, are united on one point—they do not want to repeat the unpleasant experience of the Stalin-Beria period, when they themselves lived in constant, deadly danger. Strange as it may seem to Western minds, those who know Russia well are profoundly convinced that this problem of running a dictatorship without a dictator is one of the gravest and most insoluble problems the Russians face, and a major reason why they want a real breathing space.

BY the same token, the Soviet rulers have also failed to find an efficient way to run their empire without an emperor. In a recent chat with the Indonesian Ambassador in Moscow, the always talkative Khrushchev frankly admitted that the satellites were proving troublesome. In the old days, he remarked nostalgically, when Russia was the only Communist country, the Communist parties elsewhere did what Moscow told them without question. But nowadays, with Communists actually running the government in the "people's democracies," they had begun to develop a regrettable habit of putting their own national interests first.

The satellites are not going

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Chairman Lewis Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission made a fascinatingly interesting little talk in Schenectady, N. Y., on the future of atomic power. It is fascinating because in it he said:

"There is hope for the day when the atom will serve ONLY AS THE SERVANT OF MAN AND NEVER AGAIN as his destroyer."

HE SPOKE at a ceremony at which a trifling amount of power generated by the working model of an atomic engine for the atomic submarine Sea Wolf was channeled into a public utility system at Schenectady, where the Sea Wolf's engine was built.

The event is significant because it was the first atomic power ever sold for commercial

to liberate themselves overnight. But satellite restlessness is certainly a greater problem for the present formless junta than for the all-powerful and greatly feared Stalin. There are even serious observers in Moscow who are convinced that the Soviet policy of populating the "new lands" in central Asia is motivated more by fear of Chinese expansion than by the need for increased food sources.

This by no means exhausts the list of reasons advanced by the experts for the Soviet change. There is the real fear of a rearmaged Germany, and the hope that honey may succeed in preventing German rearmament where vinegar failed. There is the heavy expense of equipping the huge Red Army with tactical atomic weapons. And there is the development of a new, conservative middle class in Russia — in the factories, this new class wears clean linen smocks, to distinguish its members from the lesser breed of manual workers. Some observers would put this last phenomenon at the top of the list, rather than the bottom. At any rate, there are plenty of reasons why the Soviets may want to reduce the international temperature.

But there are no sound reasons to support the favorite American theory that it is simple weakness that causes the Russians to smile so coyly and continually at President Eisenhower here. On the contrary, in some ways the Russians are stronger than ever before, as anyone who witnessed their recent air show would agree. Nor is there anything to suggest that the Soviets are now prepared to alter their basic doctrine, or to make really major concessions to the West in order to win a settlement.

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use. The sale, of course, was a mere token.

IS HIS hope (that the time will come when the atom will serve SOLELY as the servant of man) a vain one?

Not necessarily. Let's go back to poison gas. In destructive capability, it is only an infant in comparison with the atom bomb. But it was (and still is) a weapon capable of depopulating whole cities if used in heavy concentrations in a surprise attack by air.

IT HASN'T been so used. Chiefly, it hasn't been so used because the horror of it has prevented man from attempting to use it as an instrument of wholesale destruction.

Ever since World War I everybody has had poison gas in sufficient quantity to destroy human life in whole cities, but nobody has used it in such an attempt. Let's be realistic. The big reason why it hasn't been so used is that everybody has been afraid of RETALIATION.

That could be true in the case of the atom bomb.

BUT let's get back to atomic power for peace.

The first actual sale of it for commercial use (a mere token sale) was made the other day. Atomic energy, as the CHIEF source of power in our economy, will come more rapidly than electric power has come because the world moves much more swiftly now than in the past.

But it won't come in a day.

THERE are difficulties in the way of its use. And dangers.

There is the problem, for example, of disposal of the ASHES of atomic fuel—the radioactive residue left after the power has been extracted. That problem is already receiving much study. The present idea is to carry these "ashes" out to sea in special containers and sink them.

It is presently estimated that with use of the atom as the chief source of power for peacetime industry and human living these ashes could POISON ALL THE OCEANS WITH DEADLY RADIOACTIVITY.

Suppose an atomic reactor in your town should BLOW UP.

THESE problems, of course, will be solved.

But the time won't be day after tomorrow.

MEANWHILE—Here in Southern Oregon and Far Northern California, we'd better get the power of our great rivers developed while somebody still wants to develop it.

Then we will have it. It will be a long, LONG time before atomic power for peace will supplant already developed

Understanding Almost Certain To Be Reached

Geneva—(U.P.)—A four-power agreement on raising the Iron Curtain between East and West was confidently expected today to result from the Big Four summit talks.

The conference scheduled formal discussion of "development of contacts between East and West" as one of the four main items on the agenda.

Conference sources predicted that an understanding was almost certain to be reached on this point. But it would be done by slow stages.

Observers said the talks would set only the broad outlines of the scope of future contacts between the East and West which have been divided for nearly 10 years.

Relax International Tension

Behind the move lies the assumption that direct contacts between the two camps might prove one of the most effective ways to relax international tension.

East and West still have widely differing ideas on the nature of such contacts and on how they could usefully be set up and developed.

But both President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin have indicated that they attach importance to easing the barriers between the two worlds.

Harmful Consequences

Mr. Eisenhower warned in his opening policy statement at the summit conference Monday against the harmful consequences of keeping people isolated from the outside. He pointed specifically to the "artificial barriers such as now interfere with communications."

"It is time that all curtains whether of guns or laws or regulations should begin to come down," the President said.

Bulganin called for "a broad development of international contacts and cooperation in the field of culture and science, for the removal of obstacles impeding intercourse among nations."

Both Britain and France stand solidly behind the United States and are prepared to go along with any moves for the raising of the Iron Curtain and easing communications between East and West, conference officials emphasized today.

The West has most prominently in mind an understanding with Russia which would enable Western diplomats and press representatives to move more freely in the Communist East.

Russia has in mind, in addition to cultural contacts, a loosening up of the West's trade embargo.

power from falling water.

AND—If, with the aid of abundant power from the falling water of our great rivers, we can develop BIG industries to use our native raw materials—

These industries will STILL BE HERE to be powered with atomic energy if and when the time comes that atomic energy is the chief source of commercial power.

Drain Police Chief Finds Needed Blood

Minneapolis — (U.P.) — Elmer Winslow, a small town police chief 2,000 miles from home knew just where to go to get help.

Winslow, chief of police at Drain, Ore., and his wife had brought their 13-year-old son here for a heart operation. When they arrived Tuesday night, doctors decided 18 pints of fresh blood would be needed during the operation, set for next Wednesday.

Winslow was faced with finding 18 blood donors in a city where he didn't know a single person.

So, he went to police headquarters and told his story. By noon 13 policemen had volunteered blood. Police said they were sure other donors would be found as soon as the story got around the police force.

Wilma Montesi Scandal Reopened in Italy

Rome — (U.P.) — The reopening of the scandalous Wilma Montesi case stirred excitement in streets and salons alike today.

Investigating Magistrate Raffaele Sepe reopened the case Wednesday when he formally ordered trial for Piero Piccioni, son of Italy's former foreign minister, on charges of causing the death of dark-haired beauty Wilma Montesi. Eleven others were ordered tried, including self-styled Marquis Ugo Montagna and former Rome police chief Saverio Polito.

Ike Gives Easy Lessons To Russ

Geneva — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower has given the Russians some easy lessons in the art of propaganda by doing what comes naturally, and it appeared today the Soviets are apt pupils.

The newly-affable Communists suddenly threw open the gates to their villa late Wednesday and posed agreeably on the lawn for all photographers who wanted a crack at them.

This move came a day after Mr. Eisenhower had tied up traffic in downtown Geneva by walking on the spur of the moment into a toy store to buy presents for "my kids" — his grandchildren, Barbara, Susan and David.

In the conference chamber itself on the first day, Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin used his position as last speaker to bid for the headlines with his new two-stage security program.

But the President smothered a lot of the propaganda effect by giving his enthusiastic cheers to Bulganin for saying his piece in

such a nice way.

On the second day of the parity, the President again collected the headlines. He also won Bulganin's tribute when he turned, wide-eyed and open-faced, to Soviet Marshal Georgi Zhukov to be his witness that he hated war.

Pilot Avoids House To Save Eight Persons

Lepanto, Ark. — (U.P.) — A cotton duster pilot saved eight persons from possible death Wednesday by swerving to avoid their house before crashing to his death.

The pilot, Roy E. Craven of Lepanto, was killed when the plane crashed 10 feet from the home of E. W. Adams of Lepanto.

Adams, sitting on the porch, said he sat "frozen" as the pilot "looked me in the eye" then swerved the plane. Seven members of the Adams family were inside the house.

Still without appearing to try, the President, who is not a great phrase maker, came up with the third day's best catchline when he urged Russia to join the West in finding a "bridge to peace."

Mr. Eisenhower also has shown a nice public relations touch in countering the few criticisms against him without appearing to notice they were there.

Some critics were saying unkind things about the fact he stood on protocol as the only head of state here and declined to attend the round of dinners given by the three premiers.

But he took the steam out of any suggestion that he was a stuffed shirt by inviting Zhukov in for a man-to-man lunch between old war comrades Wednesday. He even walked out on the porch to meet Zhukov.

The President gets a bigger hand than any of the other heads of government when he hides around Geneva.



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