

Proposal by Russia to Ban Nuclear Bomb Tests Seen Sign of Weakness

Increased Cost of Weapons, Manpower Will Revise Defense Spending Upward

Washington — (U.P.) — The increased cost of weapons and men will push defense spending next year about \$1,000,000,000 higher than the present level, defense officials said today.

Congressional leaders who have been briefed on the new defense budget reported that it calls for an outlay of \$35,500,000,000. It is expected that defense spending for the current fiscal year will total about \$34,500,000,000.

Defense officials, traditionally reluctant to discuss budget details until they are formally presented to Congress, declined to reveal the exact figures of next year's military budget. But they confirmed that spending is scheduled to rise above the \$35,000,000,000 mark.

They cited two principal reasons for the rising expenditures:

1. New technological weapons, such as guided missiles and advanced interceptors and bombers, which become more costly as they become more complex.
2. Increased wages for workers in defense plants as well as for men in uniform and civilian employees of the Defense Department. The increased labor costs are also reflected in higher material costs.

Nearly all the increase will go to the Air Force.

Congressional sources reported that Air Force spending in the coming fiscal year will total \$17,200,000,000—a \$700,000,000 increase over the present fiscal year. Most of the additional Air

Force money will go into guided missiles and accelerated production of the new B52 intercontinental jet bomber and new supersonic fighter planes, such as the F104.

The Navy, congressional sources said, will spend \$9,700,000,000, an increase of \$200,000,000. The Army will spend \$8,600,000,000—a \$100,000,000 increase.

About \$1,000,000,000 will be spent by all the services on guided missiles. The budget also will provide for expanded research and development on long-range ballistic missiles, often called the "ultimate weapon" of the future.

The enlarged budget appeared likely to win congressional approval without much opposition. The complaint of Democrats last year was that the administration had cut defense spending too much.

BLM Timber Sold At Salem Auction

Salem — (U.P.) — Five tracts of Bureau of Land Management timber brought \$763,584 at oral auction yesterday, Salem District Forester Otto C. F. Krueger said.

A total of 18,216,000 board feet was sold.

Two tracts located in Linn county brought high bids of \$59 and \$53 a thousand board feet for Douglas fir. The first contained a total of 3,893,000 board feet and was bought by Lulay Brothers Lumber Co. of Scio.

Vancouver Plywood Co. was high bidder on 7,421,000 board feet of timber near Molalla at \$54.50 a thousand board feet for Douglas fir.

Murphy Lumber Co. of Portland was high bidder at \$114.193 for 3,681,000 board feet, mostly Douglas fir, located in Polk county.

Peron Overthrow Said To Have Saved Oil

Buenos Aires, Argentina—(U.P.) — President Pedro E. Aramburo said Tuesday the overthrow of Juan D. Peron prevented the "surrender of our oil" to foreign interests.

He referred in a broadcast speech to the contract negotiated by Peron with Standard Oil Co. of California for oil exploitation of large areas in southern Argentina. Speaking on the 40th anniversary of the discovery of oil in Argentina, Aramburo said his government wants "100 per cent Argentine gasoline."

Attempt Believed To Hoodwink West Into Slowdown

Washington — (U.P.) — Some U. S. atomic authorities view the recent Soviet proposal to ban A-bomb tests as a proof of weakness.

They see it as an unwitting admission by the Russians that they still are far behind the West in nuclear weapon engineering.

"So they'd like to hoax us into a slowdown while they try to catch up," one man suggested.

He shares with most other atomic experts here the conviction that the Russians have no intention of permanently curtailing their own tests, whatever they might promise.

Too Far Too Fast

"To do that," he said, "would be to abandon hope of matching the size and quality of our nuclear stockpile."

This man, who occupies a good vantage point from which to observe world nuclear developments, believes the Russians have tried to go too far too fast and need time to "improve their atomic homework."

He thinks it "quite probable" that a sizeable number of their atomic test devices have turned out to be duds. He bases that belief in part on the relatively few Soviet explosions that have been detected by the West.

Reds Have Bomb

That doesn't mean the Russians don't have enough A-bombs and H-bombs of proven power to do dreadful damage. Some sources estimate the number in four figures.

And certainly the Soviet test exploded Nov. 22 was no dud. It was the most powerful yet detonated by the Russians, a megaton-plus weapon widely believed to have been a super H-bomb deliverable by plane.

Possibly there is something to the talk you hear of nuclear stalemate.

But Western observers doubt the Russians have yet developed anywhere near the number of high quality special purpose weapons in the free world's atomic arsenal.

At any rate, U. S. atomic authorities appear to be unanimous in the belief that the Soviet test ban proposal was bogus inside and out. They say:

1. The Russians knew the West would never enter into any agreement, involving its security, that was backed only by unpolluted Soviet promises.

2. But by making a tongue-in-cheek offer to curb foreign nuclear experiments, the Reds hope to hoodwink at least part of the world into believing they had achieved weapons parity with the West.

3. At the same time, they sought to make propaganda capital out of the fact that they have done less atomic testing than the West and so have added less to the world level of radioactivity.

4. In any case, if the West should agree to a test ban, the effect would be to slow its own atomic developments while Russian weaponers tried to draw even.

But the West shows no sign of falling for the Soviet hoax. Prime Minister Anthony Eden has said Great Britain will go ahead with its development of the H-bomb. Rep. James E. Van Zandt (R-Pa.), a member of the Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, has said this country intends to test new big weapons at the Pacific proving ground in the spring.

The panda is one of the rarest of mammals, with the face of a racoon, feet like a cat, and body similar to that of the bear.



IOWA CAMPUS QUEEN — Dora Lee Martin of Houston, Tex., wears "Queen of Queens" crown after her coronation as queen of the contest at the University of Iowa at Iowa City, Ia. The 17-year-old freshman was the first Negro ever selected in the contest.

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