

# Biggest Nuclear Test Program Ever Held in Pacific To Start About May 1

By JOSEPH L. MYLER  
United Press Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.) — The biggest nuclear test program ever held in the Pacific is about to start.

It will feature, about May 1, the first U. S. H-bomb test ever witnessed by newsmen and other "unofficial observers."

This "public shot" will be equal in violence to several million tons of TNT. It will be one of the largest shots of the test series, which will include more than 10 explosions.

The program will get under way shortly after April 20. The United States has issued a warning to the world that a rectangle of 375,000 nautical square miles nearly 500,000 square land miles around the Marshall Islands proving ground will be a hazard area from April 20 until the tests end during the summer.

The test opener will be at least the 66th U. S. nuclear explosion. Russia, with possibly 30 atomic explosions under her belt, and Britain with three also are conducting tests this year.

Test devices will be more varied than ever before. They will include featherweights, lightweights, middleweights, and heavyweights. None will be as the Bikini "super" detonated March 1, 1954. The 1954 series included five giant blasts.

Outsiders Admitted  
It will be the first Pacific test program in a decade to which newsmen and other outsiders were admitted. More than a score of civil defense officials, probably including a few governors, and 15 reporters, photographers, and radio-TV technicians will witness the big blast scheduled for May 1.

They will watch from the U.S.S. Mt. McKinley, a communications-command ship, at a distance of about 50 miles, according to present plans.

That suggested distance is a tip-off to the might of the weapon. Its anticipated energy yield has not been announced. Apparently, however, it will be somewhere between five and 10 megatons. A one-megaton bomb equals the explosive power of 1,000,000 tons of TNT.

Both Eniwetok and Bikini, the two atolls of the proving ground, will be used for test shots in the spring series. The observer shot will be set off at Bikini. It may be an air drop from an H-bomber. Or it may be exploded on a barge, on the ground, or on a tower.

A prime purpose of the new tests is to develop small atomic warheads for defense. In past tests at the Nevada proving grounds devices of less than 1000 tons TNT equivalent have been exploded.

Small Weapons Testing  
The largest A-bomb equals around 500,000 tons, and the largest U. S. H-bomb ever actually tested was a 15-megaton device, according to informed sources. There is no upper limit, however.

It is understood that some of the smaller weapons to be tested are designed for delivery by low caliber cannon, rockets, mortars, and a variety of ground-to-air, air-to-ground, and air-to-air guided missiles.

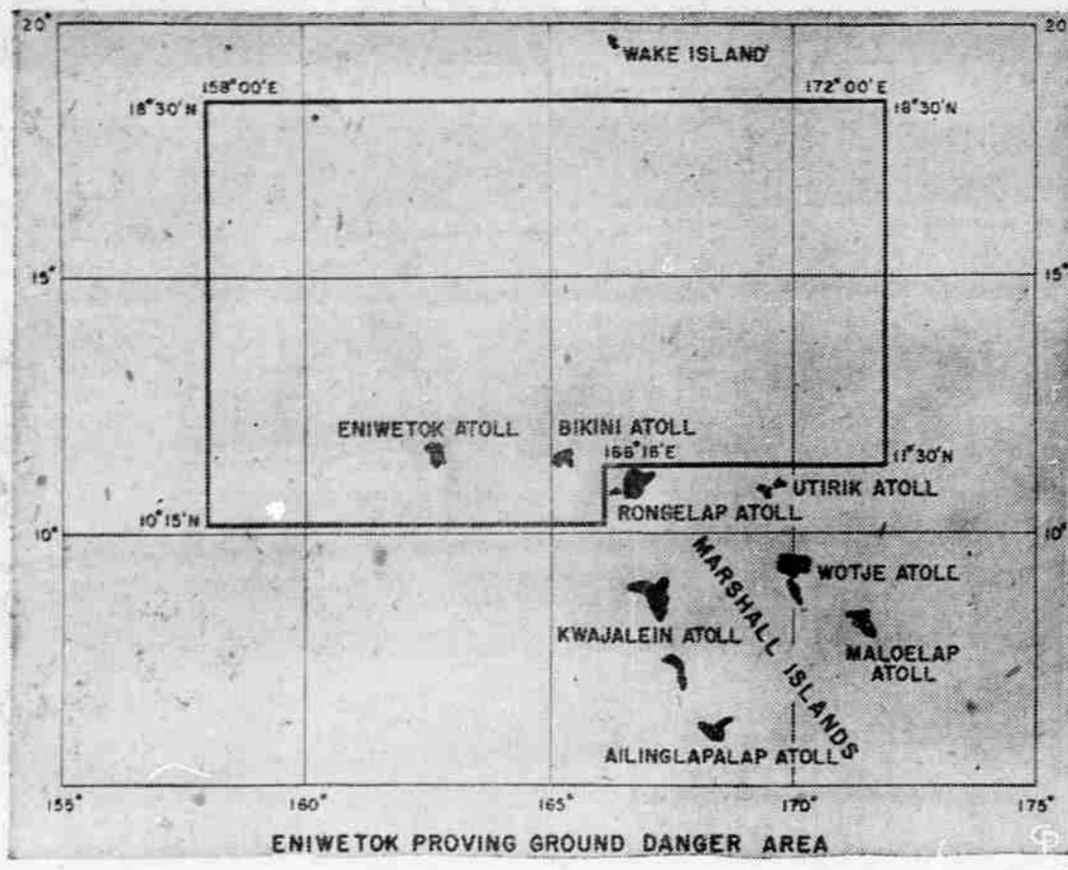
Chairman Lewis L. Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission has said they will be used in this country's defenses against nuclear attack. The keynote of this year's program is "deliverability." Many tests of the past have been scientific experiments involving devices far too bulky for use. They had to be refined to fit available means of delivery.

The big task force of service and civilian experts who will conduct the tests already is at the proving ground. Pretty soon, an official said, test weapons of all sizes "will be popping all over the place."

Safety Precautions  
The last Pacific test witnessed by newsmen was also the first. It was staged in the summer of 1946 a year after World War II. The four Pacific test programs since then were closed to all but "authorized persons." Newsmen will be admitted to future tests if this year's observer program works out to everybody's satisfaction.

This year the task force is intensifying safety precautions to insure against any incident like that of 1954 in which 23 Japanese fishermen, 239 Marshall Islanders, and 28 U. S. service men were exposed to radioactive fallout. One of the Japanese died months later. All of the Americans and Marshall Islanders have long since recovered.

The 1954 accident was caused by a windshift. This year no big shots will be made until officials are as certain as weather science can be that conditions are just right.



WARNING IS ISSUED to Pacific shipping by Atomic Energy Commission that, effective April 20, it should avoid 375,000 nautical square miles in area of Eniwetok Proving Ground due to nuclear tests. Hydrogen blasts are believed scheduled. (International Soundphoto)

## Scientists May Soon Pin Down Cause of Multiple Sclerosis

By DELOS SMITH  
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.) — Science may soon pin down the cause of a disease which now has no known cause—nor cure, for that matter.

Prof. Samuel J. Prigal has completed a mammoth job of scientific scholarship which makes a most impressive theoretical case for allergy being the cause of multiple sclerosis.

No ordinary allergy, understand; nothing that would be turned up by skin tests or other standard ways of detecting and

identifying allergies. But something most extraordinary—like the body becoming "sensitized"—that is, allergic—to its own self.

It's no small matter, either. As Dr. Prigal pointed out: "Approximately 300,000 cases exist in the United States, as compared with 250,000 cases of chronic poliomyelitis."

Lengthy Study  
Dr. Prigal, who is associate professor of medicine, New York Medical college, studied and dovetailed the work of over 200 scientists over the past 30 years.

In multiple sclerosis there is a slow but progressive destruction of myelin, which is a substance of nerve sheaths and other tissue, in the brain and spinal cord. The result is a creeping paralysis which cripples and kills the victim by inches.

The question has always been: What destroys myelin; Dr. Prigal made these points:

- (1) Extracts of brain and cord tissue when injected into animals will sometimes produce a condition resembling multiple sclerosis. As a yet unidentified substance within the extracts sets off an allergic reaction—and in myelin tissue.
- (2) The central nervous system can be affected by a number of allergic reactions, caused by substances which come from outside the body.
- (3) The brain may contain a substance which usually is latent but when "released" by some means now unknown, serves to set up an allergic chemical mechanism which acts against myelin.
- (4) Infections, either viral or bacterial, could play a part in releasing a latent substance from the brain and setting up an "auto-sensitivity."

## Congressmen To Take Stand in Icardi Hearing

Washington — (U.P.) — The government today called three congressmen to support its perjury charge against former Lt. Aldo L. Icardi, who denied murdering his superior officer during a World War II cloak-and-dagger mission.

The congressmen were brought into Federal District Court to explain the establishment of a special House Armed Services Subcommittee before which Icardi appeared in 1953.

Former committee Chairman Dewey Short (R-Mo.) was expected to testify that he set up the subcommittee to investigate the strange disappearance of Maj. William V. Holohan behind enemy lines in Italy in 1944. Subcommittee members called to the stand were Reps. W. Sterling Cole (R-N.Y.) and Paul J. Kilday (D-Tex.).

Legal Technicalities  
The government claims Icardi, a 34-year-old Pittsburgh real estate broker, and his colleagues murdered Holohan. But it cannot try him on a murder charge because of legal technicalities.

Defense attorney Edward Bennett Williams of Washington, D.C. was slated to give Icardi's side of the story to the jury before the witnesses were called.

In a long opening statement, chief government prosecutor Victor C. Wuerheide Monday accused Icardi of plotting the murder of Holohan and of embezzling funds and supplies from the United States. Icardi, now the father of five children, is accused of lying to the subcommittee when he denied the charges.

## FRB Says Industrial Production Declines

Washington — (U.P.) — The Federal Reserve board reports that industrial production declined slightly last month instead of showing its usual rise.

## West Must Spend For Better Roads

Oakland, Calif. — (U.P.) — A government official estimates the 11 western states must spend \$17,360,000,000 to bring their highways up to date for the traffic expected in 1964.

This estimate came yesterday from A. C. Clark, deputy commissioner of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, who spoke to 350 delegates attending the Western Public Works conference.

Discussing the proposed Federal highway programs, Clark said: "Never before in the history of highway development has there been such a public understanding of the highway deficiencies that exist, of the cost and consequence of driving over poor roads and of the economic benefits of riding over highways designed and constructed to modern standards."

Another speaker, J. P. Murphy, principal highway engineer for California, said a Federal highway program is needed this year if the state is to meet its backlog of highway needs.

He urged that Federal funds be spent on the basis of state highway needs.

## Stronger Baghdad Pact Aim of U.S.

Washington — (U.P.) — The United States is taking new steps to strengthen the Baghdad Pact without joining it.

Administration officials said today the United States does not plan to formally join the five-nation alliance despite new demands that it do so. But they said this government will provide new moral support for the alliance and will give sympathetic consideration to large-scale economic aid on a regional basis to pact members. It previously has granted aid to member nations individually.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and President Eisenhower came under attack from three House Democrats Monday. They called for immediate U. S. military aid to Israel in speeches marking the eighth anniversary of Israeli independence.

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) told the House that if President Eisenhower "played a little less golf and paid more attention to the serious duties of his office" it might mean that "Israel would get these arms."

Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.) said it was "dense and stupid" not to grant Israel's request for \$50,000,000 worth of U. S. arms when the Arab nations are getting arms from the Communists. Rep. Charles A. Boyle (D-Ill.) also called for granting the arms request.

There are nearly 2,000 varieties of bats.

## Lack of Response To Sucker Ad Shows Public Less Gullible Than During 1920

New York — (U.P.) — Lack of response to an advertisement for a get-rich-quick investment scheme proves that the public is less gullible than it was in the days of Charlie Ponzi, according to True Magazine.

The current issue of the magazine has a book-length feature on Ponzi, who swindled Boston "investors" of more than \$5,000,000 in 1920. To check whether the public would still go for Ponzi's scheme, True editors inserted the following ad in the public notices column of the New York Mirror for three days at the beginning of the month:

**Sucker Ad**  
"A unique investment plan. Promises to pay you a fat profit of 50 per cent in 90 days. For further details, Charles Ponzi, Room 2002 67 West 44th Street, N.Y."

True has received only 23 responses to the ad in the two weeks since it appeared. Thirteen letters and eight postcards arrived at True's offices and two

persons made personal inquiries. The letters and cards indicated curiosity mixed with wariness. Most of them asked for further details by mail "without obligation" and several asked "Ponzi" not to send salesmen to their homes.

The grammar, spelling and penmanship indicated a rather low educational level for the writers. One letter smacked of the sort of sucker enthusiasm that made it possible for the original Ponzi to collect. It read:

"Dear Mr. Bonzo: Too good to be true. Me myself has only 250 dollars to invest. Want to make 125 dollars by end of June. My friends also want to make money too. Please send forms."

The two men who came to True's offices in person were a little shamefaced when told it was all an old gag. They got the same printed warning that True sent to all mail inquirers along with a stamp for their trouble. Better think twice next time, the warning said.

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