

Russia Cutting American Air Power Lead By Pouring Men, Money, Materials in Effort

By CHARLES CORDRY
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—Russia has been able to whittle down America's air power lead by lavishly pouring men, money and materials into the effort since World War II.

While the living standard of the Russian people has been kept depressed, the standard of military power has been pushed increasingly higher. While the worst housing shortage in Europe has persisted, the biggest air force in the world has been built.

By leaps and bounds, the Soviets created and expanded the economic, industrial and scientific strength that underlies modern air power.

These developments are in the

spotlight now because of the Senate air power investigation and the Russian visit of Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Air Force chief of staff. For almost a decade military men, particularly airmen, have been warning a sometimes skeptical nation what to expect. But even the airmen have been startled more than once by the rapidity of Russian advances.

Won't Settle Controversy
The Senate inquiry will not settle the controversy whether Russia may overtake and surpass U.S. air power in a few years. Neither the Eisenhower administration nor its Democratic critics, nor the worried airmen, are likely to change their minds.

But the investigation apparently has swept away any doubt that the once "backward" Russians are serious competitors. Air Secretary Donald A. Quarles summed it up when he said the Soviets have greater numbers of aircraft and are outpacing America in "rate of progress" in production and technology. Despite that, Quarles is confident personally that the Russians will remain second best in quality.

Twining to Appear Before Committee

Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate Armed Services committee will ask Gen. Nathan F. Twining on Tuesday to declare whether he and Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson are at odds over relative air power of the United States and Russia.

The Air Force chief of staff also will be questioned behind closed doors on whether what he saw in Russia has altered his previous worried views on Red air strength.

Chairman Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) of the Armed Services subcommittee on air power, charged earlier, after hearing Wilson, Twining and other witnesses, that there were "direct conflicts" between Wilson's optimistic claims for American air strength and that of Air Force leaders.

After an 80-minute conference with President Eisenhower Thursday Twining told newsmen he did not think there was "any conflict" although "there may be some difference of judgment on what's what."

Marine Planes Crash In Close Formation

Chicago—(U.P.)—Two of four Marine Cougar jet planes flying in training formation collided in flight Saturday, killing one pilot whose plane crashed in an area of new residential construction at suburban Glenview.

The second pilot nursed his plane to the Glenview Naval Air station and landed with out injury. The pilots, neither of whom was immediately identified, were marine reservists on a weekend training mission.

Dead line Sunday. Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Court of Appeals Judge Takes Oath

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Frederick G. Hamley, former chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, was sworn in today as a judge of the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The 52-year-old jurist replaces retiring Judge Homer T. Bone, also of Washington state.

Hamley, a native of Seattle and a Republican, served as water department superintendent of Seattle and as city councilman. He was appointed to the state supreme court in 1945 and became chief justice in 1955.

Hamley reportedly was sponsored by Washington Gov. Arthur B. Langlie, with whom he served on the Seattle City Council in 1935.



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ary services, including about 5,000 combat types. There probably will be smaller military output this year because of the changeovers to new models. According to the authoritative new book "Soviet Air Power" by Richard E. Stockwell, Russia built 13,800 aircraft of all types last year of which about 60 per cent were combat planes. These estimates mean that Russia has built something like 3,200 more warplanes than America last year. Stockwell says the Soviet output will rise substantially this year following the 1955 changeover to new models.

One of the biggest issues in the Senate inquiry has been whether the United States is building enough B-52 strategic bombers fast enough.

Matter of Policy
Lt. Gen. C. S. Irvine, Air Force production chief, agreed with subcommittee chairman Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) that U.S. failure to build as many B-52s as Russia builds Bison jet bombers is "a matter of policy and not U.S. productive capability."

The "real concern" of airmen, as Twining told Congress last winter, is that the Soviets "are putting more men and money into this battle of the laboratories than we are." They thus are "closing the quality gap" on which America relies to offset Soviet numerical superiority.

No Longer Dependent
The Russians no longer can be considered at all dependent on captured German scientists and engineers of whom 2,000 to 3,000 were taken to Russia after World War II. The prodigious output of MIG-15 jet fighters in the late 1940s and early 1950s—estimated at 15,000 planes—proved Russia has mastered mass production techniques and was becoming a big threat in the technological race. They got to be so good that they allowed many Germans to go home, a move that has provided the West with valuable information sources.

The United States had a big lead 10 years ago, Quarles says. But the Soviets now are graduating scientists and engineers at a "very faster rate" than we are. And they already have achieved a "rough numerical equality with us."

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Washington—New Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton, on Democratic charges the Eisenhower administration has given away some of the nation's resources to private industry:
"If we've given anything away... it certainly was not intentional."

Westbury, N.Y.—Mrs. Betty Weinberger, mother of kidnaped Peter Weinberger, in a television appeal to the kidnaper:
"Once again, in desperation, we appeal to you who have our baby. We beg you to let us have some word."

Bangkok, Thailand—Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, on whether the U.S. should accept Red Chinese Premier Chou En-lai's invitation to carry on talks on the Asian situation:
"Until we see changes in the Peiping Chinese government I will not discuss possibilities."

Grand Canyon, Ariz.—David Halperin, spokesman for the Airlines Pilots association, on the air disaster that took 128 lives:
"We are fully aware that the basic cause of this accident is directly attributable to the completely inadequate and obsolete air traffic control system."

New York—Kentucky Gov. A. B. (Happy) Chandler, on his choice for the Democratic presidential nomination:
"My favorite is Chandler of Kentucky."

Hollywood—Actress Rita Moreno, on the American male's preoccupation with girls' sweater measurements:
"America is too bosom conscious. Little girls who have small bosoms feel they're nothing—they're getting horrible complexes over something they can do nothing about."

Washington—(U.P.)—The house Saturday unanimously passed and sent to the senate a bill to reorganize and upgrade the Fish and Wild-Life Service in an effort to rehabilitate the nation's fishing industry.

Moscow—(U.P.)—Russia's leaders Saturday accepted an invitation to visit the Indochinese state of Cambodia.

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