

NATO Agreement Tops News of Week; Missile Speed-Up, Soviet Budget Announcement Noted

By CHARLES H. McCANN
United Press Correspondent

The week's good and bad news on the international balance sheet.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization decided this week to seek new disarmament negotiations with Soviet Russia.

But it decided also that, pending a possible agreement with Russia to reduce the threat of a catastrophic war, bases for launching nuclear missiles should be set up in allied countries in Europe.

The four-day meeting of the 15 allies in Paris, with President Eisenhower leading the United States delegation, was one of the most critical since NATO was formed in April, 1949.

It found member countries divided on some big diplomatic issues and fearful of the implications of Russia's sensational successes with its earth satellites and its development of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In advance of the meeting, the United States program called for the urgent establishment—and arming—of missile bases in Europe. Any question of negotiations with Russia would have been a matter for the future.

But most of the other allies wanted to find out whether any agreement with Russia to ease world tension was possible. The missile question, to them, was secondary.

The result was a shift of emphasis from missiles to negotiation. The actual establishment of missile bases is to be the subject of future talks among the countries concerned.

Soviet Budget Approved
Just as the NATO meeting was ending, the Supreme Soviet—parliament—met in Moscow to give its rubber-stamp approval to the 1958 budget and plans for economic development.

The meeting opened on a boastful note. Josef F. Kuzmin, head of Russia's top economic planning board, said that the country's planning board, said that the country's production had expanded so greatly that "the Americans are now trying

to catch up with the Soviet Union."

The American Defense Department continued with its speeded-up testing of missiles in its attempt to catch up with Russia.

An intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, with a potential range of 5,000 miles, was tested successfully at the test center of Cape Canaveral on the Florida Coast.

Next, an intermediate range

Jupiter missile was launched. It failed to complete its full flight of 1,500 miles because of technical difficulties. But the test was at least partly a success because it brought perfection of a potent weapon nearer.

"Austerity" Budget Sought
French Premier Felix Gaillard went directly from the NATO meeting to face his parliament and seek a vote of confidence on an "austerity" budget of \$12,600,000,000 for 1958. Expenditures were slashed to the minimum in hope that confidence in France's financial position would be strengthened and Gaillard could seek a foreign loan.

Writer Hails Snyder For Forthright News Treatment of Fizzle

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent

Washington—When a fellow needs a friend is right now in the case of Murray Snyder.

Snyder is the Assistant Secretary of Defense in charge of public information. Before that he was No. 2 man to James C. Hagerty, the White House news chief.

Some individuals seem to be trying to make Snyder the patsy for the propaganda goaf when the Vanguard satellite launcher failed to launch itself. That was the Navy's phhhhttt heard 'round the world.

Assistant Navy Secretary Garrison Norton told the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee a couple of days ago that the Navy wanted to test the Vanguard rocket secretly. Norton said the Navy believed it quite likely that the test would fail.

Rear Adm. Rawson Bennett, director of Naval research, told the subcommittee that advance publicity had been a disservice to the United States. Perhaps it is debatable whether the advance publicity was a disservice to the nation.

"Bad Rap" for the Navy
But there can be no question that the whole Vanguard incident was a bad rap for the Navy.

It was a spectacular misplay which would have been reported as a failure regardless of advance publicity. Not even an admiral can prevent the watch guard of newsmen at Cape Canaveral, Fla., from observing rocket experiments.

"I thought it was against the safety of our nation to do it in public," is what Bennett said he

told Snyder. Snyder's reply in self defense was a classic which should win him the applause of every practicing newsmen and woman in the U.S. He said he regretted the Vanguard failure but that it was his responsibility to provide the people with the news of their most expensive executive department.

His job, Snyder emphasized, was "not to exploit the successes and hide the failures" of the Defense Department. That is an astonishing statement, coming from a government press agent. Your correspondent has been dealing in Washington with government press agents for 30 years and never before heard one utter such heresy.

Snyder's description of the duties and limitations of his job are precisely what the news fraternity has been insisting over the years that government press agents should agree to. There scarcely is a news reporter in Washington nor a newspaper in the U.S. that has not in the past few years belted government agencies for suppressing news, notably to hide their f-lures.

But, did these news reporters or newspapers spring to arms in defense of Snyder when the Navy offered to share with him the Vanguard hotfoot. They did not. Snyder was left to defend himself, which he did in solid fashion beyond the power of either Norton or Bennett to answer.

Meanwhile, back at the launching pad, a new Vanguard will be set up soon for another test. And, will Murray Snyder again go to bat for the taxpayers and insist that they be told all about it as the test gets underway. Not much he won't unless he is of a very forgiving nature.

A little newspaper support now might persuade him.

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

KMED Blows "It's" Horn!

To the Editor: A letter was printed Sunday in the Mail Tribune's "Letters to the Editor" column about radio stations and "disgusting music." As program director of KMED, I would like to say that there are stations in the industry that play other than the "wailing, sick-sounding vocals . . . jazzed up by . . . a sad guitar."

KMED is a leader in Oregon radio circles when it comes to popular music. As long ago as January, 1957, KMED banned from its library of useable records any record that would offend what might be called a reasonable majority of the public. Six months after we started our planned music programming, such industry leaders as KING, Seattle, and KGW, Portland began following our lead.

We are happy to report most public-spirited stations are now realizing the folly of the "Rock and Roll era." KMED has a large library of "old 78's" (for codgers over 30), a growing LP library (for the young at heart), and a "pop" library devoid of offensive music. We are attempting to serve all age groups by our music policy. We are happy to say that reports indicate that even the teenagers are enjoying KMED's approach to enjoyable radio.

So I do therefore entreat "A would-be listener" to tune the top end of the dial (1440), and try us for "good" music.

Radio Medford, Inc.,
John Williams,
Program Director.

Thanks For Girls Home Aid

To the Editor: May we have this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to the following business firms for their contributions to the Girls Community Club: Davis Transfer and Storage, J. H. Lusk Piano Co., Reter Fruit Co., Economy Mattress and Upholstery Co., Mid-Coast Painters Inc., Woolworth's, Rogue River Orchards, Acorn Press, Confidential Business Agency, and the Medford Rotary club.

We also wish to thank Mrs. L. V. Jerry Watkins for her many services in our behalf. Mrs. Watkins purchased name tapes for the bedding for all the 22 beds of our resident girls and sewed the tapes on each sheet, pillow case, blanket, and spread. She has also donated many hand-made tea-towels and has never failed to make a financial contribution each year.

Our thanks to the Navy Mothers, who recovered the worn seat of the piano bench and to the many individuals who have helped furnish our club rooms and the girls lounge by their generous gifts.

Board of Directors,
Girls Community Club,
Mrs. Dolph Phipps, Pres.

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