

First Real Hope of Russian Interest In Suspension of Nuclear Tests Seen

Editor's Note: Frank H. Bartholomew, president of United Press International, has just concluded a series of talks with leading Western delegates to the Geneva foreign ministers' conference. Following is his appraisal of the conference based on those conversations.

By FRANK BARTHOLOMEW
President, UPI

Geneva—UPI—The most important development of the opening week of the Geneva foreign ministers meeting occurred outside the Palais des Nations where the Big Four are discussing Berlin and Germany.

Secretary of State Christian A. Herter is known to feel that Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on nuclear test suspensions offered the first real hope in months that the Russians are sincerely interested in working out a fool-proof method of policing a nuclear test ban.

The secretary found that the meeting he and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd had with Gromyko developed the first definite sign since January that the Soviets may accept new American scientific data to guide the three nuclear powers in detecting bootleg atomic blasts.

Nuclear Talks Drag
Full significance of the Russian retreat on the nuclear front was obscured by the Big Four wrangling and maneuvering on the business that brought them to Geneva in the first place—the Berlin and the German unification problems.

Prior to Thursday, the six-month old Geneva nuclear talks, now in recess until June 8, had been proceeding at a snail's pace due to continuous Russian rejection of all American efforts to bring the scientific detection formulas up to date.

The new American data resulted from underground and high altitude U. S. tests carried out since last year's Geneva meeting of British, Russian and American scientists worked out the original formula.

The Nevada underground detonations and the Argus high altitude tests of last year satisfied the Americans that the 1958 formula was inadequate for effective policing of any nuclear test ban.

Herter, Gromyko and Lloyd took the issue out of the hands of their experts, and the first hint of a possible change in Russia's adamant stand against considering new Western data came in a cautiously worded statement by an American spokesman reporting on their hour-long meeting.

He said the nuclear Big Three shared the hope that there would be quick accord on holding new technical discussions which would lead to

"swift agreement on control methods leading to a treaty."

Real Test Ahead

The full significance of this statement became apparent later when it was learned that Herter considered this a major break in the slow-motion nuclear talks which have been going on here since last October.

The new secretary, who is undertaking his first big-league negotiations with the Russians, is known to feel that the first week of the Geneva conference itself went well from the standpoint of the West.

The real test of Russian intentions, however, will come this week when the Big Four are expected to hold their first secret sessions—meetings without German advisors or secondary delegates.

The Americans want these meetings held with only three representatives of each of the Big Four, and without the presence of secretaries, press spokesmen or regular interpreters. Translation at these secret sessions would be done by the two aides accompanying each minister.

All four ministers speak English and their informal discussions in Geneva have been conducted in English. But the hard bargaining sessions, where every word counts, they prefer their official language.

Gromyko, who delivered even his arrival statement in English, occasionally surprises the other foreign ministers here with an exhibition of humor usually revolving around the square-round table controversy.

West Position Strong

Another Gromyko trait has been his persistence, in casual meetings with the other foreign ministers outside the conference chamber, in discussing the matter of seating Poland and Czechoslovakia in the formal sessions.

Herter feels that the Western powers are entering the second week of the conference—which he feels will last at least three more weeks—in a strong bargaining position with the presentation of the West's package plan for free elections in Berlin, global troop cuts and German reunification.

However, he is unwilling at this point to predict the outcome of this conference, which most observers feel will definitely lead to a summit meeting.

There is no feeling in Geneva at the moment that this conference will result in a total failure. However, there is a grim realization that if failure does result, the West is in for a bad time in Berlin and at once.

West German officials here are of the definite opinion

that if the conference fails, the Communists will make good the threat to conclude a peace treaty with East Germany which would lead quickly to a prearranged harassment of the supply lines to isolated West Berlin.

No Simple Solution

The Germans do not feel that Berlin could be rescued as easily or as simply as sending an armored column up the corridor, or that a repetition of the airlift is practicable.

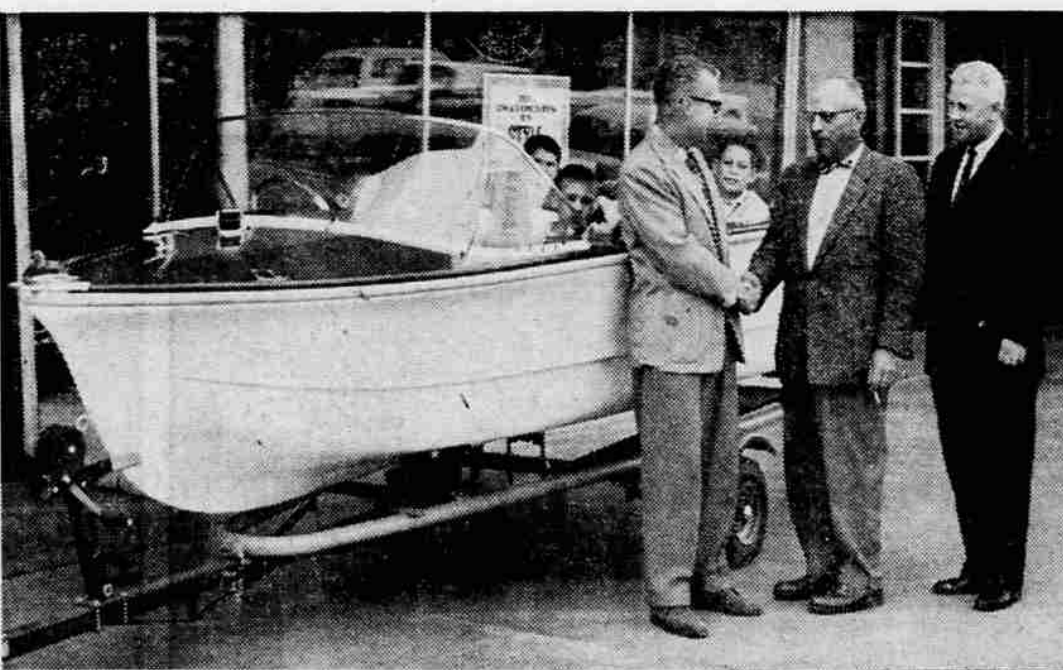
The West German view is that no armored column could safely proceed over the 100-mile route to Berlin without a protective flanking action for 15 miles on either side of the roadway. This would in effect mean creation of a 30-mile combat front pressing

into Communist-held territory.

So far as the West's package peace plan is concerned, the West Germans foresee the possibility that the Russians may accept it around a conference table—but then carry out only the parts that suit their own ends.

Specifically, the Germans feel that Gromyko may "snap up" the Western offer of free elections in Berlin and the creation of an all-German committee, but simply fail to take any action on reunification and security.

Despite these forebodings, the strong central hope in the German thinking is the definite belief that Russia will not intentionally go to war over Berlin alone.



WINS BOAT—Louis B. Thurman, 417 Ardmore ave., Medford, is congratulated by Nels H. Zacharisen, salesman at Crater Lake Motors, and Fred Coleman, vice president of the company, on winning the grand

France to Boycott More Unification

Paris—UPI—Premier Michel Debre has indicated that France, while remaining true to its present "super-state" commitments, will boycott any further steps toward creation of a "united states of Europe."

In a speech Friday at the Paris Trade Fair, Debre denounced the "super-state" principle which has been employed so far in Western Europe to pool coal, steel and atomic energy and to create a common market.

He said democratic governments cannot abdicate their responsibilities to their national parliaments and peoples.

The premier added, however, that he favors international cooperation so long as it does not compromise France's sovereignty.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 7
Monday, May 18, 1959

Contribute Blood

Salem—UPI—An emergency blood drawing was held in the state capitol building here late today after the Portland blood bank fell to a one-day supply Sunday.

State employees donated blood in the main hearing room between noon and 4 p.m.

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Wilderville Man Injured in Mishap

Ronald F. Cole, of Wilderville, Ore., was reported improved today by Sacred Heart hospital attendants after a car fell on him at Willow Springs reservoir Sunday.

Cole is suffering from head and possible internal injuries which occurred when a car on which he was working fell off a jack. He was taken to the hospital by Medford Ambulance service.

Albert D. Doss, 70, of route 2, box 212A, Central Point, was reported in fair condition at Rogue Valley hospital today after a horse fell on him near the Desert Service station on Crater Lake highway near White City Sunday. He is suffering bruises, according to reports.

thru May 31

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