

Russia's Grip on Lithuania, Latvia Said Increased

Washington —(UPI)— Russia's "Iron Grip" over Lithuania and Latvia has increased under the regime of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, according to testimony made public by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Two former officials of the Baltic countries told the committee that economic exploitation and religious persecution have been intensified under Khrushchev's rule.

No Political Freedoms
Dr. Vilis Masens, former Latvian diplomat, said "there are no political freedoms whatsoever" in his homeland today.

"In spite of Communist assertions to the contrary, Khrushchev's regime in Moscow interferes through its agents in every branch of Latvian life," he said.

Masens and Vaclovas Sidzikauskas, former Lithuanian diplomat, said the Khrushchev regime continues to deport thousands of youths from their countries to remote parts of Russia. But under the guise of "voluntary" transfers.

Both witnesses came to this country as refugees and are officials in the Assembly of Captive European Nations, an organization working for the liberation of Communist-dominated countries.

The committee consulted them at a closed-door session Sept. 21. It released their testimony as the last of its four-part series entitled "The Crimes of Khrushchev."

Sidzikauskas charged that Khrushchev is trying to destroy "the national identity of the Lithuanian people." He said the Soviet premier introduced drastic changes in Lithuania's educational system in an attempt to stamp out a patriotic feeling among youths.

Jet Fighters Said Capable of Satellite Launch

Washington —(UPI)— Navy jet fighters are capable of launching earth satellites and may already have sent one into orbit, according to a science publication.

The weekly "Science Trends" said the defense department has approved a navy fighter-satellite program and that a new launching attempt is scheduled within the next two months.

Some Navy experts believe that a satellite released from a Navy F4D Skyray fighter actually has been in orbit for more than a year, the magazine said, but "there has been no definite proof."

The magazine said the satellite payload was released from the plane at the top of a 40,000-foot climb, with solid-fuel rockets providing additional thrust to send the package on its way.

From High Speed Jets
The Navy program calls for launching of 180-pound tactical combat satellites from high-speed jet fighters, the magazine said.

It said the same method would be used to launch "satellites" — small recoverable satellite packages designed to go into brief orbit and return intact through the earth's atmosphere.

"Science Trends" said the Navy has tentative plans to carry these satellite packages in all its task forces for use as combat and defense aids, and for communication, radiation study, weather observation and navigation.

Caller at Door Surprises Woman

Corvallis, Ore. — "Now be good," Mrs. Mary Edmondson told her two youngsters, when she left their second floor room and walked downstairs to do the kitchen chores.

The doorbell rang and the 28-year-old mother answered it.

It was her daughter, Marguerite, 5, whom Mrs. Edmondson had just left upstairs.

"Mama, I just fell out of the window," Marguerite said. Mama called police. An ambulance rushed the youngster to a hospital—which later sent her home.

Marguerite said she was playing with her brother, Michael, 4, when she leaned too far out the window and fell to the concrete patio below.

"I didn't want to ring the bell and bother you in the kitchen," Marguerite said, "but the door was locked."

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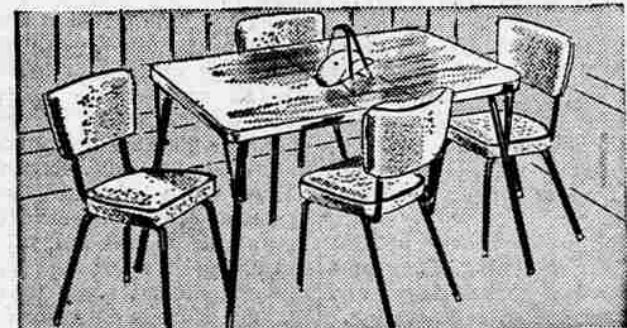
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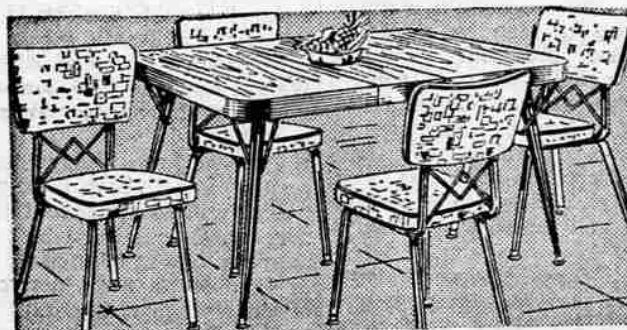
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