

Russians May Be Working on Space Bomb, Scientist Says



THEATS NO WORRY — Despite threats of disinheritance, Gambie Benedict, 18, heiress to typewriter millions, and her 35-year-old beau, Andre Porumbeanu, wear jubilant expressions at the home of a friend in Paris. Gambie, who became the object of an international search when she eloped from New York City with Porumbeanu, said they plan to wed as soon as he gets a divorce from his wife. (Photo copyright 1960 by News Syndicate Co. Inc.)—UPI Telephoto

'Orbital H-Bomb' Said Possible To Launch at Will

Washington —UPI— Nuclear scientist Ralph E. Lapp said today the Russians may be working on an "orbital H-bomb" which could be stationed in space and launched or recalled at will.

"A recallable bomb in orbit around the earth would have tremendous impact upon the world as a psychological terror weapon," Lapp said.

Lapp, who worked in the U.S. atomic bomb project during World War II, also suggested that the Russians may have developed a long-range missile of super-power and super accuracy capable of delivering a 100-megaton warhead on targets continents away.

A 100-megaton warhead would have the explosive violence of 100 million tons of TNT. The A-bomb which destroyed Hiroshima was a 20,000-ton weapon.

Would Obey Commands

Lapp, now a writer on nuclear affairs, made these suggestions in commenting on a statement by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that Russia is working on a "fantastic weapon" of "incredible" power.

Some scientists have discounted the likelihood of developing satellite bombs on grounds that it would be extremely difficult to pull them out of orbit and aim them effectively at a target in earth.

But a technical report published by the House Space Committee last year said such a bombing system is feasible. It made the point that a satellite bomb could be launched into orbit in times of peace and then hurled at an enemy by command signals from the ground whenever its masters wished.

Lapp agreed that such a bomb, recallable on demand, would require "highly sophisticated guidance." And from a strictly military standpoint, he said, it might not be the best of all possible weapons.

But as a terror weapon, he said, an H-bomb circling the world at an altitude of some 300 miles would have a vast effect upon the minds and emotions of mankind whether or not it was ever used.

Could Scorch Earth

"And," Lapp told United Press International, "Khrushchev is quite knowledgeable about the psychological impact of what he says and does."

The 100-megaton missile warhead also would be an effective "terror weapon." A dozen dirty bombs of that size, Lapp said, would deposit enough radioactive fallout to "take out" all of the United States east of the Mississippi.

One 100-megatonner could destroy every home in New York City with its blast alone. A dozen, particularly if detonated at high altitude—might start conflagrations that would devastate half a continent.

"It would be truly a scorched-earth weapon," Lapp said.

The only American intercontinental ballistic missile said to be ready for use is the Atlas. This missile, with its 380,000 pounds of thrust, is capable of delivering no more than five megatons of destruction.

Lapp noted that the Russians developed big booster rockets years before this country and may well be progressing now from hundreds of thousands to millions of pounds of thrust.

The Russians also may have developed their ICBM arms, a point which, Lapp said, could make all permanent U.S. missile bomber bases highly vulnerable.

Illegitimate majority needed

by Premier Michel Debre, whose clashes with Pinay led to the finance minister's decision Wednesday to step down rather than accept another cabinet post offered him by de Gaulle.

Dissolution Seen

Political leaders such as Felix Gaillard of the middle-road radical party predicted that when Parliament reconvenes in April Debre will be voted out and Parliament dissolved.

Since Parliament was not slated to meet again until April, the de Gaulle government had time to mend its political fences. But a "crisis" atmosphere persisted in the French capital.

RAIL BRIDGES

Chicago — There are more than 191,000 railroad bridges in the U.S., and if they were placed end to end, they would extend almost 4,000 miles.



LEWIS QUILTS — John L. Lewis, top photo, bowed out today as president of the United Mine Workers. Lewis, 80, has headed the union for 40 years. Thomas Kennedy, lower photo, UMW vice president automatically succeeds Lewis to the job.—UPI Telephoto

Aftershocks Continue To Rock Arequipa, Peru

Arequipa, Peru —UPI— A shattering earthquake — the worst disaster in the history of this second largest city of Peru — killed at least 38 persons Wednesday and injured more than 200, it was reported today.

Aftershocks continued through the night, and thousands of persons slept in the open for fear that another major quake might shake down their homes.

President Manuel Prado, U.S. Ambassador Theodore Achilles and other American and Peruvian officials were flying here today to assess the extent of damage.

Airlift Aid

An emergency airlift brought doctors, nurses, food and essential medicines for quake victims. Help also was on the way from Bolivia.

Local authorities proclaimed a state of emergency in Arequipa and surrounding areas shortly after the first shock rocked the city at 10:40 a.m., destroying or damaging an estimated 80 per cent of its homes.

The tremor wrecked the Roman Catholic church at Santo Domingo, the Goyeneche Hospital, the Gibson bank and the public works building. Many other public buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Without Power

The Tiahaya district was reported "completely destroyed."

The city was without electric light or power Wednesday night and drinking water was rationed.

Although Arequipa, with a population of 130,000, was the largest city hard hit by the quake, it was felt in scores of other communities in Peru, Chile and Bolivia. Telephone lines were down in many areas, delaying reports of death or damage.

The shock here was worse than that which hit the city on Jan. 15, 1958, killing 21 persons and injuring 90.

FOREST GRANTS

New York —UPI— Before conservation of forests was thought about in the U.S., the Federal government distributed public land to settlers and purchasers in the form of grants, the Twentieth Century Fund notes. In one instance, a railroad was granted nearly a million acres. One state sold some of its finest hardwood forests for 10 cents an acre.

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Market Advances in Routine Trading

New York —UPI— The stock market advanced in generally routine trading today.

Support for steels, autos, electronics and scattered specials put the market on higher ground. Blue chip buying gave the industrial stock average a 1.50-point edge over Wednesday's close.

Oliver Corp. opened at 18 off 3 1/2 following announcements that merger talks with Studebaker - Packard have been broken off. However, the auto stock showed a gain of more than a point in the early trading and its preferred a rise of nearly 7.

Steels ruled firm with gains of around one in U.S. Steel and a half or more in Bethlehem. Republic recovered all of an opening loss and was unchanged. Youngstown eased a bit.

A Western Union spokesman denied negotiations involving a merger with General Telephone were in progress and the issue declined more than a point.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York —UPI— Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 656.44, off 3.99; 20 railroads 156.24, off 0.21; 15 utilities 86.78, up 0.09, and 65 stocks 215.04 off 0.82. Sales Wednesday were about 3,470,000 shares compared with 3,760,000 shares Tuesday.

Wednesday's prices on selected stocks:

Allied Chemical	109 1/2
Alum. Co. Am.	100
Boeing Air	30 1/2
American Can	42 3/4
American Motors	38 1/2
AT&T	81 1/2
Anaconda Copper	65 1/2
Armco Steel	70
Bendix Aviation	68 1/2
Bethlehem Steel	51 1/2
Boeing Air	30 1/2
Caterpillar Corp.	32 1/2
Chrysler Corp.	64 1/2
Continental Can	45
Crown Zellerbach	51 1/2
Curtiss Wright	29 1/2
Dow Chemical	93
Du Pont	25 1/2
Eastman Kodak	103
Firestone	133
General Electric	93 1/2
General Foods	103
General Motors	51 1/2
Georgia Pacific	49 1/2
Graham Paige	25 1/2
Greyhound	21 1/2
Gulf Oil	33 1/2
Homesite Mining	41 1/2
Idaho Power	47 1/2

Midget Prices

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