

Russians Follow Stalin's Advice With Most Sobering Effect on West

Editor's note: Soviet scientific achievements have come as a shock to most in the Free World. How was it possible for a nation so long derided as technologically backward to beat the U.S. into the Space Age? In the following dispatch, a UPI Moscow correspondent answers that question as he surveys Russian space accomplishments during the past year.

By ROBERT J. KORENGOLD
Moscow—UPI—The time was more than 25 years ago. The speaker was Joseph Stalin. "We are 50 to 100 years behind the advanced countries," said the man who was to rule the Soviet Union from shortly after the death of Lenin until his own death in 1953. "We must make good the distance. We must ourselves become experts. We must turn to science."

And turn to science the Soviets did, with results that have never been more apparent and for the West more sobering than in 1959.

Soviet scientists had their finest hours in 1959 since they astonished the world with the first Sputnik on Oct. 4, 1957, and followed that by quickly boosting "Laika," the first canine space traveler, into orbit in Sputnik II.

Troubled Recognition
Russia's two successful moon shots — one a direct hit, the other a successful picture-taking expedition to the previously unseen back side of the moon — brought the

USSR worldwide recognition as the pacemaker in the race to outer space.

Whether the Soviets can hold their lead is a matter to be determined in the years — perhaps the decades — to come. But there is no doubt that the successes of the USSR space program have wrought a profound change in the nation's entire scientific outlook.

During 1959 in particular, and gradually now for several years, Soviet science has opened its doors to the West on a hitherto unprecedented scale.

Russian scientists — more eager than ever before to talk and exchange data — popped up, and often stole the limelight, at conferences all over the world in 1959.

Still Trails West
Record numbers of Western scientists toured the Soviet Union, visited USSR scientific establishments and returned home with usually similar conclusions: that Soviet science still trails the West, particularly the United States, as far as broad-scale application of new techniques is concerned; but in areas where the Kremlin has decided to make an all-out effort — particularly physics and thermonuclear and space research

— Russia is often equal to or ahead of the capitalist world. Largely responsible for this is the nation's emphasis on scientific training. In addition to the chance for rapid advancement, top pay and privileges, a scientific degree provides Soviet youth with somewhat the same social prominence enjoyed in the U.S., for instance, by distinguished doctors and lawyers.

Allowing for varying definitions of an "engineer," some 106,000 engineers were graduated in the USSR in 1959 and the nation plans to turn out 119,000 more in 1960. Kremlin leaders like to boast that this is more than three times the number of engineers graduated annually in the U.S.

Overseen by Academy
In addition, there is a Soviet scientific establishment of mammoth proportions with more than 3,200 scientific institutes employing more than 300,000 scientific workers full-time.

Overseeing this vast complex is the august USSR Academy of Sciences headed by Alexander Nesmeyanov, a scientist who also knows how to keep his political skirts clean.

Just after the first Sputnik was launched, Nesmeyanov outlined once again the scientist's role in the Soviet Union.

"Science must fulfill its sole task of making Soviet engineering, economy, industry, agriculture, public health and welfare in the USSR surpass the levels achieved in the most developed capitalist countries," he said.

This is the grinding rule at all levels.

Main Body in Rear
To make their probing advances into such fields as space research, the Soviets have often left the main body of their scientific effort in the rear. Everything is devoted to what the Kremlin and the Academy consider important.

"I was impressed with their equipment. When they wanted to do something they had the finest available. But often it was housed in quarters that would seem makeshift and ill-tended by Western standards."

Thus did one highly qualified Western scientist sum up his impressions here after a comprehensive tour of Soviet scientific facilities recently.

What the Soviet leaders want are results. Never mind the frills, and hang the cost. But when results aren't forthcoming, there can be trouble.

The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda scored the entire Soviet science program last March for lack of coordination, wasteful efforts by some scientists, delays and red tape that were hampering the speedy transformation of scientific discoveries into tangible results.

The newspaper sharply criticized "unproductive" scientists who "spend large amounts of state funds and do not produce any valuable scientific results for years on end."

Certainly Soviet science has more vigor than it did in the Stalinist days when it seemed in some respects to be subordinate to the party line. But it cannot go too far in its new-found freedom.

As long ago as 1956, the magazine "Party Life," ideological organ of the Communist Party, warned: "The freedom of discussion of scientific problems does not mean at all the freedom to preach bourgeois ideology."

Within its ideological boundaries Soviet science ranged far and wide in 1959 with many accomplishments as notable in their way as the three Luniks (Lunik I, fired Jan. 2, went past the moon and into orbit around the sun. In autumn came the even more spectacular Luniks II and III.)

In the nuclear field, there was the September launching of the atom icebreaker "Lenin." In the fall it was announced that the world's largest radio telescope was un-

der construction in Leningrad. In medicine, the USSR announced it had completed large-scale anti-poliomyelitis vaccinations with a live virus serum and with reportedly good results. A couple of new drugs, reportedly useful in treating some kinds of cancer, also have been announced.

But it is the Soviet space achievements that have dominated the news. Each new success has given impetus to the question: when will the Soviet Union put a man into space?

Academician Leonid Sedov, one of the top spokesmen for the Soviet space program, told western reporters right after the successful moon strike last September that a manned moon shot was "not a matter of the next few months."

Strong Indications
But a sudden rash of carefully uninformative articles in the Soviet press about the previously undisclosed Soviet astronaut program has given strong indications that the Soviets are pushing ahead at full speed.

Responsible Soviet officials, however, have continually echoed the words of Prof. Boris Kukarkin, vice president of the International Astronomical Union, who declared:

"No man will fly in space rockets until his life, health and safe return to earth are guaranteed. This is the reason for the intensive program of experiments with animals being conducted by Soviet biologists and doctors."

The Soviets in 1959 fired a



rabbit and several dogs — including one named "Otvazhnaya" (Daring) who made four such trips to high altitudes in rockets and then recovered them in good condition.

Said Cheapening
Perhaps the year's most surprising development was the traditionally close-mouthed Soviet press' almost tabloid interest in Russian scientific achievements. Everyone from obscure laboratory technicians to distinguished academicians was suddenly giving out interviews to the point where three top Academicians complained in Pravda that sensational — and often irresponsible — treatment was cheapening the name of Soviet science.

Despite such problems, there was little doubt as 1960 began that Soviet science was well on the way to carrying out its assignment — helping the USSR overhaul its capitalist competitors.

Civil Air Patrol Pilot In Flying Fireman Role

Washington—UPI—A Civil Air Patrol pilot has ushered in the age of the volunteer flying fireman.

Col. Don Speirs was passing low over the Maryland countryside in his single-engine light plane when he spotted flames spouting from the attic of a farmhouse near Poolesville.

Speirs was returning at the time from a mercy trip to Martinsburg, W. Va., where he delivered an emergency shipment of blood.

The 41-year-old Speirs radioed the information about the fire to the Federal Aviation Agency's Washington communication station, which, in turn, alerted local authorities.

Meanwhile, Speirs circled low, caught the attention of a farmer plowing his field, and directed him to the fire. "That farmer broke his

plowing pattern, Speirs said later, "headed his tractor for the barn, got his car . . . and rushed to the burning place."

Speirs also helped the Bealsville and Hyattstown, Md., volunteer fire departments over rural roads to the fire by flying over the correct roads.

Then he landed in an open field, aided the firemen in running their hose to a pond about a quarter of a mile from the house, and pitched in to help move furniture.

The house was saved, but damages were placed at \$5,000. There were no injuries.

Speirs is operations officer for the Middle East region of the CAP. A father of four children, he lives in Annandale, Va. "We carried out two more flights, uneventfully, before we called it a day," he said.

Alien Response Pleases Officials

Portland — Immigration officials are well pleased with the response of aliens in Oregon to address report requirements.

James L. Turner, district director of the immigration and naturalization service, stated that although the program had been underway only 14 days, the number reporting thus far is well ahead of the number reporting during the same period last year.

Aliens have until the end of January within which to submit their report of address to the government. Forms for purpose may be obtained at any post office or any office of the immigration and naturalization service.

NOMINATES AMBASSADOR
Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower Thursday nominated G. Frederick Reinhardt of San Francisco, a career foreign service officer, to be U. S. ambassador to the United Arab Republic.

All aliens, with few exceptions, are required to report. Those excused from the requirement include diplomats,

persons accredited to certain international organizations and persons who are admitted temporarily as agricultural workers.

Aliens who are minors must also report, but the parent or legal guardian should submit the report for an alien child under 14 years of age.

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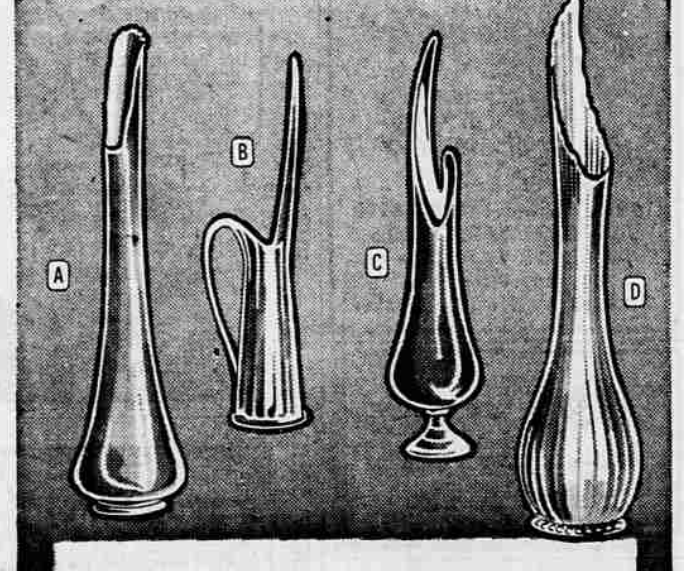
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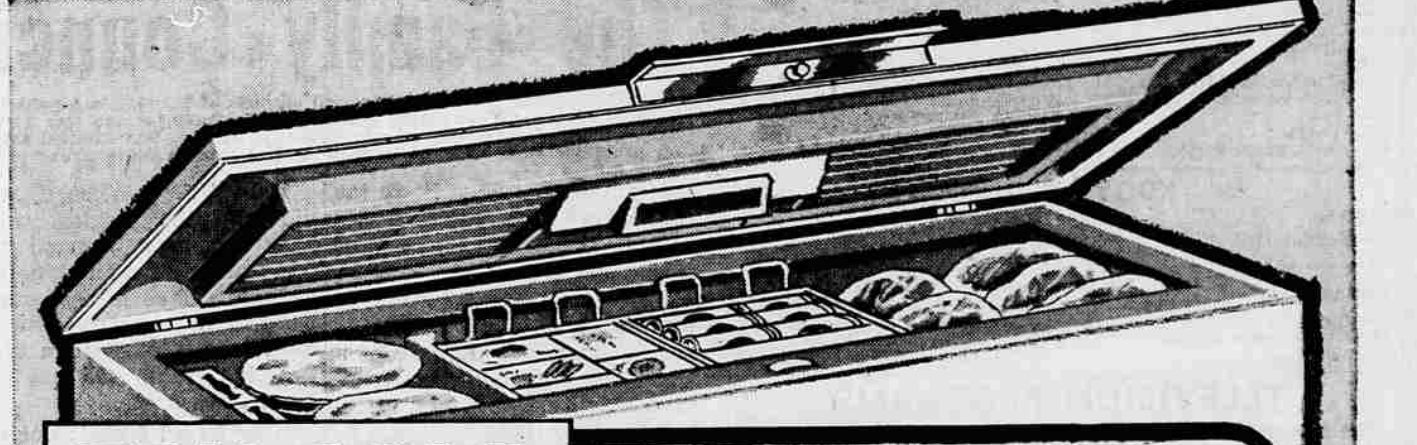
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