

Gigantic Military Communications System Being Built To Face Russia

Editor's note: Here is an exclusive dispatch describing a giant "burglar alarm" system that the Western powers are erecting along the Iron Curtain in Europe. Hitherto unpublished information in this dispatch has been cleared with the proper authorities.

By FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW President

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New York—UPI—A gigantic military communications system, designed to run an electronic fence around Europe's edge of the Iron Curtain, is nearing completion across an 8,845-mile arc from Norway to Turkey, United Press International has learned.

Eighty-six powerful transmitting and relay stations across nine NATO countries constitute the electronic frontier facing the Soviet Union and its satellites.

This is the largest single package of its kind in history. The project, already half completed, will cost between 50 and 75 million dollars in electronic installations alone. In addition, each host country contributes land, buildings and operating personnel.

Its purpose is to provide instant warning to the NATO nations and to the Allied supreme command post in Paris in event of surprise enemy attack at any point.

The great alarm system begins at a point 530 miles north of the Arctic Circle, then swings in a Turkish crescent to Asia Minor, interlocking Norway, Denmark, West Germany, England, Belgium, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

Feeder stations are under construction on the Faeroe Islands between Scotland and Iceland and on Malta, Crete and Cyprus in the Mediterranean.

The Norwegian section is already operational. Construction there was begun in May, 1957, and on Aug. 12, 1958, the system was quietly inaugurated. In a year and a half of intense military testing, it has demonstrated "circuit availability" 99.7 per cent of 24 hours daily.

Much of the program has been under security restrictions since its inception. Some of it still is. However, at the half-way point in construction, with the sensitive northern end already functioning and successful operation of the entire network in sight, it is now possible to present a panoramic description of the whole.

It is called "Ace High." Ace stands for Allied Command Europe, high because the system is what the electronic engineers call tropospheric scatter forward and utilizes transmitters often located upon the highest mountain tops.

The section already operating in Norway is called "Hot Line." It was financed by the United States. Soon it will be melded into Ace High.

The tremendous job of synchronizing the station operators and maintenance personnel, who speak eight separate languages, will be undertaken in April in a school now nearing completion at the Italian air force base at Latina, 40 miles southwest of Rome.

Teacher will be International Standard Engineering, Inc., a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph

Teamster Union Members Indicted For Donations

Washington—UPI—The Justice Department announced Wednesday that a federal grand jury in St. Louis has indicted six members of the Teamsters Union on charges of making illegal political contributions to the 1956 election campaign of two Democratic senators and two Democratic house members.

The indictments charged that St. Louis Teamsters Local 688 and the Taxicab Drivers Local 405 and six union officers violated the Taft-Hartley act by making contributions to the campaigns of Sens. Thomas Hennings (Mo.) and Wayne Morse (Ore.) and Reps. James Roosevelt (Calif.) and Henry D. Reuss (Wis.).

Named in the 22-count indictment was Harold J. Gibbons, an international vice president of the Teamsters and head of the St. Louis Teamster local.

The other Teamsters named were Sidney Zagri, recently named director of the Teamsters national political department; Philip C. Reichardt, Gibbon's deputy, and John Namer, William Latal, and Joseph Bommarito.

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FENCE NEARING COMPLETION—A gigantic military communications system, designed to run an electronic fence around Europe's edge of the Iron Curtain, is nearing completion across an 8,845-mile arc from Norway to Turkey. Eighty-six powerful transmitting and relay stations across nine NATO countries constitute the electronic frontier facing the Soviet Union and its satellites. Its purpose is to provide instant warning to the NATO nations and to the Allied Supreme Command post in Paris in event of surprise enemy attack at any point.

Corp., which engineered the entire project under contract with "SHAPE"—Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe.

The students will be the young men, military and civilian, upon whose precise understanding of the highly technical data Europe's chances of survival may rest.

Heart of the Act High network is the SHAPE command in Paris. To this control center any report of a sudden military move at any point along the whole long perimeter of the Iron Curtain will be instantly communicated.

A basic value of Ace High is that its operations are independent of the various national communications systems, which could be silenced by sabotage or sudden enemy invasion.

Further, it is not susceptible to interruption by atmospheric conditions or sunspots, as is ordinary radio. Nor can it be jammed by nearby enemy stations.

The European warning system is called "Ace High." Systems similar to Ace High—now shadowed by this newest giant which is closest to the potential enemy—are No. 1, "Stretchout" and No. 2, "White Alice" in Alaska; No. 3, "Dewline" across Canada; No. 4, "Bmews" across the middle of Canada; No. 5, "Pole Vault" which connects No. 3 and No. 4 with a line down to Newfoundland. These interlocking western defense systems are already completed or now being built. (UPI Telephoto)

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Brake Repair Job Order Comes Late

Aberdeen, Idaho—This brake repair job came too late.

Arthur Manzo left his automobile at a garage with this note:

"Could you fix the noisy tappet, adjust the valves, and, if you have time, put master cylinder in the brakes?"

Before making the repairs, mechanics fished the car out of a nearby lake.

The brakes had given way and the car rolled into shallow water at the lake's edge. On the way it knocked over a gas pump, crushed a dock and overturned an outboard motorboat.

SINCERE CRITICISM

Walthamstow, Eng.—UPI—When a parishioner told the Rev. Reginald Tayner, "you preach boring sermons," the minister promised to live them up in the future.

Rayner said Tuesday the blunt critic of his pulp technique was his 6-year-old son, Robert.

Salem—UPI—District Judge Wendell H. Thompkins, Albany, has filed for election to Circuit Judge, position number 1 in the 21st judicial district.

Disastrous Results Seen in Attempts To Control Weather

Hong Kong—UPI—Don't fool around with the weather! Maybe it's bad now, but it could be worse.

This is the opinion of Prof. S. G. Davis of Hong Kong university who says that experimenting with controlling the weather could lead to disastrous results.

The professor got talking about weather experiments in the course of discussing the unusually mild winter Hong Kong has experienced this season. One thing he doubted was that nuclear explosions have tampered with the usual (or is it the unusual) course of weather.

If anybody is going to change the weather, Davis said, it will be man himself.

Russians Tackle Problem

The Russians have been working on their bad weather for some years now. They are not just mere theorists because their ideas can definitely work.

"They (the Russians) know how to do it and it may be in the near future that Russia will have no winter," he said.

"However," he hastily added, lest the world start demanding better weather, "drastic changes could be more dangerous to the world than all the nuclear weapons invented."

According to Davis, the Russians have devised a means by which nuclear fission has been harnessed to melt snow—something Russia has got plenty of.

Vast Areas of Snow Melt

"Thousands of small nuclear fission pellets can be shot into the snow and within no time vast areas of snow have been melted," Davis explained.

It would be possible, he said, to have sunshine 24 hours a day by sending huge quantities of fine meteoric dust into one location where the sun's rays would be reflected onto any given point.

"In other words, if Russia decided to have sun all the year or part of the year round, it would be possible. However, I think most scientists are treading carefully on this score."

The troubles which could arise from such experiments are enormous.

"If Russia did make their weather warmer there would be an immediate build-up of pressure. This would cause a greater wind activity and cause the world to be trashed with continual typhoons," the professor said.

"The Sahara desert could suddenly change into an equatorial rainbelt." The frightening prospects he mentioned included people used to cool weather dying in tropical temperatures, and the entire world would have to adjust to a new living.

"The whole thing must be investigated more thoroughly to insure that mankind does not suffer," he said. "In the meantime old mother nature isn't going such a bad job."

EX-RESEARCHER DIES

Montclair, N. J.—UPI—Howard S. Warren, 86, retired research engineer and former director of protection development for the Bell Telephone Laboratories, died Monday.

Princess Anne Makes First Speech

London—UPI—Princess Anne Tuesday made her first public speech—13 words long.

"I would ask you to light this candle for us for Brownies everywhere."

Then the blonde princess smiled, handed the candle to Lady Baden-Powell and rejoined her fellow Brownies of the elite Buckingham Palace Pack.

The candle presentation to the widow of the late Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy and Girl Scout Guide movement, highlighted the pack's observance of "Thinking Day."

Fellow Brownies later reported Anne took no chances. She had memorized and rehearsed it for days.

Portland—UPI—The State Board of Health said it had confirmed through laboratory tests two more cases of Asian flu in Oregon.

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