

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

HOW McCONE SPOKE OUT

Washington—“We must not stand still for long. For 18 months now, in this matter of voluntary suspension of nuclear tests we have depended on the words of the Soviet. They have stated their weapons testing has been halted. We have accepted this in good faith.”

“Yet no positive proof is available or possible. If the Soviets' word is good then our position of nuclear superiority is secure. If their word is not good, the past 18 months will have given them time to catch up in nuclear weapons development. Another two or three years would place them well ahead of us.”

The speaker was the able Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, John A. McCone. The words quoted are a reconstruction but an unquestionably authentic reconstruction of the key passage in a recent speech Chairman McCone made to the Foreign Policy Association.

ALTHOUGH privately delivered, this speech has caused a sharp stir in the half-closed circle of the policy-makers. It was bound to cause a stir, since Chairman McCone so openly suggested that the Soviets could very easily be violating in secret the public, self-denying East-West moratorium on further nuclear tests.

The background of this speech was the same ugly array of facts recently brought out in the scientific hearings held by the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. These facts were happily discovered long after the beginning of the Geneva negotiations for a ban on nuclear tests. They contradicted almost every optimistic assumption of the people, like this reporter, who have greatly hoped for an effective ban on tests. From these facts, four crucial points stand out.

First, all the scientists, including the leading advocate of a ban on nuclear tests, the great Dr. Hans Bethe, now agree that detection of concealed underground tests is vastly more difficult than had been supposed. To be exact, test explosions in big holes underground are precisely 300 times harder to detect than the Geneva negotiations believed when they devised their detection system.

HENCE the Geneva detection system, as now designed, is worthless for tests of weapons up to 30 kilotons. At least one hole big enough to conceal tests of this magnitude has already been made in a salt dome, by an American oil company. It is not known whether such extra-large underground holes already exist in the Soviet Union. In any case, since the Geneva detection system has yet to be constructed, the Soviets can very easily run clandestine underground tests in somewhat smaller holes with no risk of exposure.

Second, clandestine tests of 20 to 30 kiloton nuclear weapons afford satisfactory trials in miniature of weapons in the megaton range.

Third, the Geneva detection system affords no safeguard whatever against tests of megaton weapons in outer space. The means for such tests do not exist as yet. They would certainly be immensely difficult and expensive. But they are theoretically quite feasible. They would also richly reward a secret aggressor. Having developed a new weapons system in miniature, in underground tests, the aggressor could then make his final trials in outer space. And could do this without sacrificing a particle of his advantage of surprise.

FOURTH, the advances in nuclear weaponry that are still possible, as a result of further testing, “are second only to the historic advance from the atomic to the hydrogen bomb.” Again, the quotation comes from the McCone speech. According to report, moreover, Chairman McCone rightly minimized the commonly discussed risk of Soviet cheating to develop tactical, small yield nuclear weapons. Soviet military doctrine does not emphasize such weapons. They are also wasteful of fissionable raw stuff. The wisest Western theorists also agree with the Soviet doctrine.

Instead, therefore, Chairman McCone stressed the danger of new missile-weapon systems being made possible by lighter yet more powerful warheads, and of anti-missile weapons systems being made possible by specialized warheads of new types. Both types of development can probably be carried on successfully, by venting the present test moratorium with underground tests in the 20 to 30 kiloton range. Success would be as-

ured by the combination of underground cheating with cheating in Outer Space.

THESE are appalling facts to have to face, at the present stage of American policy-making. With the summit conference just around the corner, the American government stands virtually committed to the wholly inadequate Geneva detection system. It will take two years to install the Geneva system. No safeguard whatever now exists against underground cheating by the Soviets. Even when

and ID installed, the Geneva system will still fail to provide any safeguard against cheating within the wide limits above-outlined.

In the circumstances, one must admire the moderate way Chairman McCone has pressed on President Eisenhower the case for a go-slow approach to the voluntary moratorium on tests. A major question remains, however, What answer will the President make if Nikita S. Khrushchev, at the summit conference, sweeps aside all the remaining obstacles to installation of the Geneva accord, and asks the President to sign a ban on tests forthwith?

SIGNING will mean accepting the major risk outlined in the first quotation from Chairman McCone. Nonetheless, the value of a ban on nuclear tests would be very great indeed, if only means to enforce it can be found. There is a chance, though no more than an even chance, that fully effective means of enforcement will be discovered by the scientists.

Hence the drift of the policy-makers' thinking seems to be in the direction of agreement with Khrushchev, with two major provisos. The ban on tests will be approved. The Geneva detection system will be installed. But this will be on condi-

tion that everything possible shall be done, including nuclear testing of detection systems, to improve existing detection capabilities. And there will be the further condition that all bets will be off at the end of two years, if a cheat-proof method of enforcement cannot be devised in the interval.

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Wilson School Music Program Is Tonight

Students of the fourth, fifth and sixth grades at Wilson school will present their spring musical at 7:30 o'clock tonight in the Wilson auditorium.

The orchestra and band will participate, along with selections by the fourth grade chorus. The Tonettes, a small ensemble group, will sing, and the program will conclude with the fifth and sixth grade chorus singing a variety of classical, folk and sacred numbers. The public is invited.

Princess Grace Wins In Plea for Pigeons

Monte Carlo, Monaco—Princess Grace Wednesday succeeded in putting an end to the killing of pigeons for sport in Monte Carlo. Her husband, Prince Rainier III, ordered the Monte Carlo casino to discontinue the live pigeon shoots it has been holding for 60 years.

Court sources said the princess, former actress Grace Kelly, has been pleading with Rainier to stop the killing of an estimated 30,000 pigeons each season and that he gave in to her wishes.

Salem, Va.—Dr. Chur-laf U.S. Sen. A. Willie Robertson, brother of Dr. Robertson, 62, brother-in-law (D-Va.), died Wednesday.

John R. Porto, M.D.
Physician & Surgeon
Announces the Opening of his New Office
in the Century Building
843 E. MAIN—SP 2-5336
NOW OPEN FOR APPOINTMENTS
Practice Limited to Urology

WARDS MONTGOMERY WARD
117 S. Central SP 3-7301 Free Parking
Sunday, May 8th is MOTHER'S DAY

Airy open weave cotton blouse
2⁹⁸

- So summery... Mother will love it to freshen her suits!
- Easy-care finished leno cotton... little or no-iron!
- Crisp warm weather cooler

Such a light-hearted fashion for Mother's wardrobe! She can't help but love the hip-curving flattery! White, sunny maize, blue. 32 to 38.

Special buy! Nylons for Mom
3 pairs 2⁵⁰

- All perfect quality
- Twin thread construction. If one thread breaks, the other holds
- Flattering self-seams

A gift of practical luxury for Mom. Beautifully sheer and shadow-free, but with extra wear assured. Choose from new spring shades. 8 1/2-11.

\$20 in fabrics with portable!
96⁹⁵
\$5 DOWN \$5 A MONTH

- SPECIAL OFFER! \$20 worth of fashion fabrics included
- Makes fancy stitches automatically—without attachments!

Ideal Mother's Day gift! So many extras—pushbutton reverse, automatic bobbin winder, built-in light. 20-yr. guarantee.

Imported straws, perfect gifts
2⁹⁸ plus 10% Federal tax

- Handmade in Italy for Wards exclusively, outstanding buys!
- Shaped big and soft to carry everything for Mom's outings, shopping sprees

See elegant classic trims of leather and rope or colorful, gay grass embroidered motifs with figures of flowers and insects! Most are lined.

Shadow-proof Carol Brent slips
3⁹⁸ each

- Soft Dacron® Polyester-nylon-cotton blend
- All-around double skirt gives perfect shadow protection

Easy-care, easy wear in white and colors. Pretty trims of lace, permanent pleats, embroidery. 32-44. Matching petticoat S, M, L. 2.98

Dishwasher plus 53-pc. dinner set
\$179
\$5 DOWN

- A gift combination that's ideal for Mother's Day!
- Powerful "turbo-surge" action gets dishes really clean!

Imagine! An automatic dishwasher and complete semi-porcelain set for 8 at this low price! Machine rolls anywhere, needs no special wiring.

SALE! Screen printed Dacron® comforters
13⁹⁹
AFTER SALE 16.95 72x84"

Airy light, comfortably warm with 1 1/2 lbs. Dacron® Polyester fiberfill, "Sampler" or "Fiesta" patterns—each in 2 color combinations. Washes. Matching pillows Pr. 9.99; after sale, 13.96.

SALE! "Patriot" spreads in reversible patterns
14⁹⁹
AFTER SALE 16.95

Full or twin size all cotton spread in bleached or heirloom white and sandalwood.

SALE! 17-vent steam-dry iron—new top porthole
8⁸⁸

Easy and fast to fill! Steam covers entire 29 sq. in. plate—switch instantly to dry.

YOUR CHOICE! Ladies' matched luggage
8⁸⁸

Durable vinyl-cover. Modern oval tapered. 25" pullman; 21" weekend, 12" train.

Innerspring chaise lounge—Regular 31.95
ONLY \$3 DOWN 27⁸⁸

New King-size for relaxing comfort all through those lazy summer days! Bright "Tealose" pattern vinyl pad is easily washable with a damp cloth. All aluminum frame is lightweight, won't rust.

SALE! WOMEN'S SATIN SLIPPERS
Lustrous quilted trim. Padded sole. Pink. **1.66**

SALE! WOMEN'S FABRIC SLIPPER
Elastic side girth for snug fit. Sizes 4-9. **2.66**

SALE! WARDS CANISTER CLEANER
Lightweight, modern, with 7 attachments. **52.88**

SALE! Women's acetate briefs
2 for 78c
Reg. 59c pair! Runproof acetate knit in white and lovely colors. S, M, L, XL. Buy now!

18 pc. towel set
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After sale, 12.50
Cotton terry in sun-lit colors. 6 each face towels, hand towels, washcloths.

SALE! Cordless electric clock
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REG. 22.48
No wiring, no winding—runs by 1 1/2-volt battery. 30" in black, brass, walnut finishes. Plus tax.

SALE! 3-speed hand mixer
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REG. 11.95
Thumb-tip control for 3 full-powered speeds. Full-size chrome beaters snap out. 3 lbs.

Modern easy-lift Scale
6⁹⁸
Accurate, easy-to-read, weighs up to 250 lbs. Chrome handles. Vinyl mat; easycare colors.

SAVE! 24-pc. silverplate
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Lowest price in 20 years! Modern, new "Concept" pattern. 6 teaspoons, forks, soups, knives.

SALE! Regular 29.95 3-piece group summer lightweight!
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No worries about the weather with strong rayon web and 1" aluminum tubing. Save!

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