

Negotiations Said Being Hampered by Government Secrecy

Washington (Science Service) - Government military and atomic secrecy was denounced here. Dr. I. I. Rabi, Nobelist of Columbia University, indicated that secrecy was hampering negotiations to suspend nuclear bomb tests.

He said the secrecy surrounding the conduct of military and atomic matters results in a barrage of misinformation, half-truths and "outright distortion" of facts as the basis for public opinion. He spoke at the presentation ceremony of the Atoms for Peace Awards at the National Academy of Sciences here. Dr. Rabi is a member of President Eisenhower's Science Advisory Committee.

No Names Mentioned

Although Dr. Rabi did not mention any names, his attack on secrecy in government, particularly in the atomic field, was aimed at the minority of scientists who believe only the threat of mutual mass annihilation and a complete arsenal of nuclear weapons can prevent global war. One of the most vocal members of this group is Dr. Edward Teller of the University of California, who is sometimes called the "father" of the hydrogen bomb.

Most scientists in the U.S. and allied countries, Dr. Rabi said, look toward a "more open world" where the shadow of destructive warfare will hang less heavily over mankind. They believe the future should hold some vision more pleasant than "a huge super nuclear explosion."

Neither the scientists alone, nor officials who have much power by election or appointment but little or no knowledge of science and technology, can solve the problems of living peacefully in an atomic world. Even a combination of the best brains from the fields of science, business, religion, and academic and political life, Dr. Rabi said, would be hardly equal to the "task of mapping a wise and safe course through the tangle of mistrust and terror" that has grown up in the post-war years.

One cause of present problems is the distortion caused by exaggerated secrecy, with its consequent lack of informed opinion, Dr. Rabi charged. This secrecy has actually gained very little for the U.S.

The Russians are not far behind us in atomic weapons, while our allies are way behind after spending much money rediscovering facts and methods already known in the U.S. and the USSR.

Although most policy makers, amateur or professional, are not deeply interested in or capable of judging the technological situation, Dr. Rabi said, secrecy results in frustration, doubt and timidity about the exercise of independent judgement. The result is that many judicious persons accept the judgments by others whose knowledge is often even more limited than theirs but which extends into the "dread domain of the top secret."

To live at peace with the atom, Dr. Rabi concluded, the U.S. must find its way back to the fundamental principles on which it was founded.

"We must again become a nation of free men informed by a free press."

Crossed Sugarbeets Resist Nematode

Washington, (Science Service) - A woman scientist in Salt Lake City, Utah, has crossed cultivated sugarbeets and related wild species and opened the way to commercial development of sugarbeet varieties resistant to the sugarbeet nematode, an extremely destructive worm.

Mrs. Helen Savitsky of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation produced the hybrids under U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service supervision. In crossing the plants she increased the number of chromosomes in the sugarbeet.

Instead of the usual two sets of heredity-bearing chromosomes, plants with four sets (tetraploids) were produced.

Most previous attempts to transfer resistance from wild species to sugarbeets have been unsuccessful. The hybrids either died before flowering because of poor root development, or were completely sterile.

Because of the increased number of chromosomes in the hybrids produced by Mrs. Savitsky, the chance of developing a sugarbeet that has the chromosome segment carrying resistance to the worm pests is reported promising.

Bootlegger Turns to 'Hard Sell' Methods

Biloxi, Miss. - Sheriff's deputy George Wilcox says it looks like bootleggers are going in for the "hard sell" these days.

He was driving on a county road when a man flagged him down and offered to sell him some whisky. Wilcox bought the whisky, then arrested the salesman on a bootlegging charge.

Post Office Gives OK to Green Stamp

Fremont, Neb. - The police department reported receipt through the U.S. mails of a letter mailed with a green trading stamp, duly cancelled by the post office.

Refugees Report Red China Plans Starvation Drive

Editor's Note: Since May 1 about 500 Chinese have fled to Macao from Red China. United Press International Correspondent Leon Borralho interviewed scores of these refugees. Here he reports on what some refugees have to say on the situation in Red China.

By LEONEL BORRALHO

Macao - (UPI) - Each refugee had a slightly different story to tell, but they all reiterated the same belief that Mao Tse-tung plans to reduce Red China's over-whelming population party through starvation and overwork.

The disastrous food situation was evident on the face of each as he spoke of the terrible developments on the Chinese mainland.

Lai Fok, a dehydrated-looking man of about 40 said "death occurred every day in the Tou Mung commune. People died because they had no food to eat and when they were forced to work, they just collapsed and died in the fields, factories, everywhere."

People Eat Grass

Chang Sam, a 34-year-old farmer from Sun Wui in Kwantung province, said "people in and around Sun Wui are so hungry that they eat grass and anything in sight which they thought edible."

Lao Sau, 37, a fisherman who fled by boat to Macao from his native Chungshang country, said "with each day-break fishermen and farmers alike hoped for an opportunity to escape to Macao or Hong Kong and we all have at one time or another attempted to do so though not many are successful. We are quite reckless because we believe we are already sentenced to death by starvation and overwork. One way or another we are doomed to die so we escape."

Laughs at Report

A youth, possibly still a teenager but looking like an old man, laughed loudly when told communist Chinese authorities have offered 100,000 sacks of rice to aid victims of Hong Kong's recent floods.

"It is funny to hear the Communists are giving rice away. If anyone needs rice it is us in the mainland. I do not know what's becoming of this world. I honestly do not know."

The youth's name is being withheld because he still has relatives in Red China.

Astronomers Plan Study in Arizona

Tucson, Ariz. (Science Service) - The first visiting astronomers will start arriving this month at nearby Kitt Peak National Observatory, where a 36-inch telescope is now in operation.

For the following six months, Kitt Peak will be the focus for astronomical research programs by guest scientists, whose studies will range from the light curves of variable stars to spectrograms of emission nebulosity in the nucleus of the Milky Way galaxy in which the sun and its planets are located.

Kitt Peak National Observatory, some 40 miles southwest of here on the Papago Indian reservation, is operated for the National Science Foundation by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, or AURA.

Community Didn't Need Annexation

Bisbee, Ariz. - Austin Jay was appointed chairman of a committee to discuss the annexation of the small community of Warren by Bisbee.

When asked what he thought about the proposed annexation, Jay said, "We are getting along pretty well in Warren without city services."

"If a dog barks, we shoot him. If a man gets drunk, we take him home."

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