



CAMERA INSPECTED—Neal Boenzi, right, staff photographer for the New York Times, unpacks his "weapons" for a security check by United Nations guards before the arrival of President Eisenhower, who addressed the General Assembly today. Wednesday, Russia reports "Gestapo agents" planned to conceal guns in cameras to kill Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. (UPI Telephoto)

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

COUNTING OUR LOSSES

New York — It is a sobering spectacle, this United Nations General Assembly session. It looks like an international zoo, but it also speaks volumes about what has happened to the American and Western position in the world in the past seven and-a-half years.

Joseph V. Stalin died only a couple of months after President Eisenhower took office. But Stalin, whose method was terror, had terrified the whole world and was on speaking terms with almost no one. So it is perhaps more revealing to choose a somewhat later date — February 8, 1955, for example, when the installation of the new brightly smiling leading team of Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita S. Khrushchev brought Khrushchev to his first pinnacle of supreme power.

On that date, if you care to think back, Khrushchev might have joined his own United Nations delegation in New York if he chose. And he might also have secured the companionship of Poland's sinister Beirut, Hungary's sly and blood-stained Rakosi, and the other satellite bosses of the period.

BUT Khrushchev could have done hand-stands, offered free Aswan dams, sent diplomatic task forces, and promised special tours to the other side of the moon without bringing to the U. N. a single national leader of any consequence from any country beyond the military borders of the Soviet empire. With many bribes and much flattery he might just possibly have persuaded the beset Sukarno to come along from Indonesia; but even this inconsequential success would have been unlikely.

Today, in contrast, on America's doorstep, so to say, Khrushchev is able to give his own party, and to give it against the will of the State Department and the President of the United States. Furthermore, this is not the sort of party that smartly gave. Everyone is coming, including even President Eisenhower; and everyone is coming precisely because American and Western influence has declined and Soviet influence has intruded in just about every strategically significant area of the globe.

NOT ALL the members of the zoo-like assemblage of chiefs of state and national bosses have followed Khrushchev to the U. N. by his direct invitation. Among the professional neutrals, for example, he used Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser as his lever. Nasser, the human symbol of Soviet power plays in the Middle East, was persuaded to

come along by the Soviet Ambassador to Cairo, Nasser in turn persuaded Yugoslavia's Tito, and Tito and Nasser together persuaded Jawaharlal Nehru.

In the case of Cuba's Fidel Castro, of course, the merest telephone call sufficed. The same held true for Guinea's Sekou Toure, who has taken a far more undisguised pro-Communist line than Castro in the heart of Africa. Ghana's Nkrumah is reported to have decided to join the party, partly to please Khrushchev, and partly because of the examples set by others. Several more of the national leaders here assembled are in the Nkrumah category.

There are simple reasons why Khrushchev has thus been able to organize his own party of chiefs of state and heads of government on America's doorstep, despite the American government's best efforts to turn it into the kind of party smartly gave. In South America, to begin with, there is not only Castro; there are at least six other national situations which may explode at any moment into Castro-like governments.

IN SOUTHEAST Asia, again, the tiny, obscure, but geographically crucial nation of Laos has just been flagrantly invaded, for the second time, by Laotian Communist and Vietnamese units trained and organized by Khrushchev's satellites in North Vietnam. This obscure invasion in jungle territory, which failed when it was tried a year ago, may well succeed this time because of internal divisions in Laos. If it succeeds, Cambodia and South Vietnam will be next on the list.

In Africa, yet again, the Soviet agent, Patrice Lumumba, has suffered a setback, and the massive Communist beachhead in the Congo has been at least temporarily liquidated. But in that chaotic and unhappy country, another turn of the wheel is likely at any time. Meanwhile, it is just as important to note that the two most outstanding Africa leaders, the Arab chief, Nasser of Egypt, and the biggest single Negro figure,

Nkrumah of Ghana, vigorously supported the Soviet agent, Lumumba, at least until the recent Congo coup d'etat.

With the sole exception of Australia-New Zealand, there is not a single area on the face of the globe where the decline of American influence and the rise of Soviet influence cannot be clearly observed. Even in Western Europe, the Soviets have openly begun to attack the freedom of West Berlin by carefully calculated salami tactics. The aim is clear. This country has no more sacred trust. Yet the American and Western response to the attack on Berlin has thus far been feeble and indecisive.

If anyone doubts the reality of the decline we have experienced, let him look at the world, and then look at this U. N. session.

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Dump Trucks Crush Washington Man

Walla Walla — WPP — Oscar D. Smith, 46, Walla Walla, was killed instantly Wednesday when he was crushed between two dump trucks on a highway project along the Washington-Oregon border.

Smith was unhooking a towing cable between the trucks when the lead truck backed up and crushed him between the bumpers, the Washington State Patrol reported.

Smith, a draftsman employed by the Walla Walla Highway Department, had been assisting on a repair project along the state line road bordering Oregon.

Both trucks belonged to the Standard Asphalt Co., Spokane.

Teachers Encouraged To Register To Vote

Portland — WPP — A drive to have every teacher a registered voter will be conducted during the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 1, the Oregon Education Association said today.

C. W. Posey, executive secretary of the OEA, said "every teacher should fulfill his responsibilities not only as an educator, but as a citizen."

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