

Chance of Shooting War Declared To Be Less in Latter Part of Year

Miscalculation Held Possibly Greatest Danger

Editor's note: A new era of ill-feeling between East and West replaced the Camp David spirit in 1960. The following dispatch is an assessment of events of the last 12 months and how they may affect war or peace.

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As 1960 drew to a close, the world still sought peace on earth. But chances for a calculated all-out shooting war between East and West receded slightly.

For 1961, the greatest danger could be war by miscalculation.

Perhaps the greatest single deterrent to war to emerge in 1960 was the United States' atomic submarine equipped with the nuclear-tipped Polaris missile. It made retaliation inevitable no matter how devastating a surprise Communist attack.

The atomic submarine George Washington, with a base on Scotland's Firth of Clyde, is in operation and others soon will follow.

Besides the balance of weapons, other events indicated Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev either did not want or was not ready for an all-out test of arms.

In May, Khrushchev used the incident of the US spy plane as his excuse to torpedo the Paris summit conference.

He accused the United States of aggression, said such acts inevitably would lead to war and threatened to annihilate with Soviet rockets any foreign base used by a U.S. plane for landing or take-off.

Eisenhower's reply:

The U2 flights were necessary to assure the safety of the United States and the free world against "surprise attack by a power which boasts of its ability to devastate others by missiles . . . with atomic warheads."

Khrushchev's charges of "treachery" against the President plunged U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations to their lowest point since the Stalin era but the rockets remained on their

pads. On July 1, U.S. RB47 photo-reconnaissance plane took off from its British base on a northerly route off the Soviet coast over the Barents Sea. Its equipment suggested it was to check Russian radar defenses.

The Russians shot it down, and charged it had penetrated over Russian territory. Three of its crew members were killed and two are being held for Russian trial.

The United States introduced evidence to show it had been shot down over international waters.

The delay in the trial of the two Americans suggests that the U.S.S.R. cannot prove its case.

In any case, Russian propaganda repeated previous threats against U.S. foreign bases.

Three other events might have tempted the Communists to test their armed strength. The governments of Turkey and the Republic of Korea fell.

Both border on Red soil, and in the resulting chaos either might have been a target for Communist intervention. However, the Soviets refrained.

Coup in Laos

The third occurred in the Southeast Asian kingdom of Laos after last August's coup toppling the pro-Western Laotian government.

Russian arms began flowing to Red commanders in Laos, but as pro-Western forces appeared to be gaining the upper hand, neither the Russians nor the Red Chinese made any immediate moves to follow up what had been a momentary advantage.

Headlines recorded other cold war tides:

"Khrushchev warns France of reborn German militarism."

"French explode atomic bomb over Sahara Desert. De Gaulle cries, 'Hurrah for France.'"

"U.S. atomic submarine travels submerged around the world."

"U.S. fires Atlas ICBM record 9,000 miles."

"Communists quit Geneva disarmament talks."

"Red China rejected in United Nations."

"Eisenhower orders ships and planes to patrol coasts of



AUTO PRICES HIGH—The automobile situation in Communist satellite countries is far from bright. Prices are high compared with the average wage of the satellite worker. East Germany's Wartburg costs \$2,250. In this photo people study a Wartburg on display at a Leipzig, Germany, consumer goods fair. (UPI Telephoto)

Guatemala and Nicaragua."

As 1960 passed its midpoint and Cuba slipped surely into the Red orbit, Khrushchev said Red rockets would protect Cuba against U.S. aggression.

Later, he said he hoped his remarks would be taken as symbolic.

There were indications that at least some of Khrushchev's violent language was a cover-up for difficulties within his own camp.

The U2 incident had proved Soviet defenses to be less invulnerable than advertised, a public embarrassment for Khrushchev.

Crop failures were interfering with Khrushchev's announced intention of catching up to and surpassing the industrial and economic might of the United States.

Finally, his theme of co-existence with the West was meeting a more than cool reception from Red China. A Communist "summit" session which dragged on for the better part of three weeks in Moscow resulted in a 25,000 word manifesto which gave lip service to Khrushchev.

The manifesto placed co-existence at the top of the Communist program. But a pledge to aid and encourage revolution from within nations not yet in the Communist orbit indicated the Red Chinese at least had won a point.

Khrushchev could not yet say he held total sway over world Communism.

But, while the danger of an all out shooting war seemed to recede in 1960, the fluid nature of Soviet foreign policy continued to move it in our direction.

Just as Russia had moved to absorb Cuba ideologically and economically, so also it was moving to infiltrate other Latin American nations.

Offsetting the Soviet drive was President Eisenhower's enunciation of a modern-day Monroe policy for South and Central America and a new, \$500 million program for Latin American aid.

But pointing the way for new U.S. difficulties in 1961 and indicating some initial success for the Communist drive were a rash of brush-

fire outbreaks throughout Latin America near the year's end.

In Japan, the Communists were seeking to exploit the neutralist and left-wing sentiment which forced cancellation of Eisenhower's visit to Tokyo.

There was evidence that new Communist attempts were being made to infiltrate South Korea.

Africa was another special target.

Swift action by the United Nations prevented a take-over by a Moscow-oriented government in the Congo.

It resulted in an all-out attack by Russia on Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld before an unprecedented gathering of heads of state in the U.N.'s General Assembly.

Khrushchev demanded Hammarskjöld's resignation and reorganization of the U.N. either to render it powerless or an arm of Soviet policy.

Stated at the end of 1960 were all attempts toward disarmament or a ban on nuclear weapons tests.

Auto Situation in Communist Satellites Far From Bright

Vienna—(UPI)—Three years ago Hungarians remarked wryly: "Our motorization consists of the diplomats' cars and the cars that follow the diplomats' cars."

In comparison, there is almost a parking problem in Budapest today. With a ratio of one car to 8,000 inhabitants, one can no longer drive confidently up to the Budapest opera five minutes before a performance and slide into an oversize parking space before the door.

But the automobile situation in the satellites still is far from bright.

Parts Unavailable

In Bulgaria, complaints are common that "innumerable" cars stand useless because spare parts are unavailable. In Warsaw last February, 500 persons lined up at a car dealer's at dawn the day sales began, and in Lodz, Poland, the line formed three days in advance.

Czechoslovakia, most highly motorized of the Communist countries, has a waiting list of 92,000 would-be automobile owners, and delivery takes two to three years.

A thriving black market in used cars and gasoline goes on throughout the curtain states despite severe penalties on all caught or suspected of such dealings.

Although the Hungarian government promises that the second five year plan, which begins next month, will put 39,000 cars on the road, only 5,000 autos are due for sale in 1961.

While a state-issued permit to buy a car is no longer necessary in Hungary (although still in Czechoslovakia), buyers must deposit the full price before getting onto the waiting list.

Prices are high compared with the average wage of the satellite worker. East Germany's Wartburg costs \$2,250 and Russia's Moskvich \$2,300.

And the average Hungarian's wage is \$60 a month. Nevertheless, buyers line up eagerly to rise above the pedestrian

mob. What especially angers the Hungarians is that although there are only some 8,000 privately owned cars, the total number of registered passenger vehicles is 18,000.

The Hungarian weekly "Gazdasagi Figyelme" complained bitterly that "we hold a very low position in the international car-owning statistics, but would probably run first in the world regarding the percentage of cars run by state ministries."

In Czechoslovakia, the situation is somewhat better, with

demand to supply, Budapest's one used car dealer, "Autoker," does a thriving business in old models discarded by the state-owned taxi service. The manager says 500 persons jam the store each morning and there is a daily turnover of eight to 10 cars—when available. Ancient Wartburgs of a vintage that would be sold for scrap in the West net \$1,700, Moskviches \$2,400.

In Czechoslovakia, the situation is somewhat better, with

a satellite record of 100,000 private automobiles on the road. The Czechs, however, are understandably irate that two-thirds of their automobile production is exported at prices lower than within the country. Thus, an Octavia Super may be bought in Austria for \$1,468 whereas in Prague it costs \$3,361.

Despite the lack of automobiles, mechanical interest and understanding runs high in the satellites. Western diplomats, accustomed to finding crowds three deep around their parked cars, admit with chagrin that they are constantly asked highly technical questions about the innards of their model—which they usually cannot answer.

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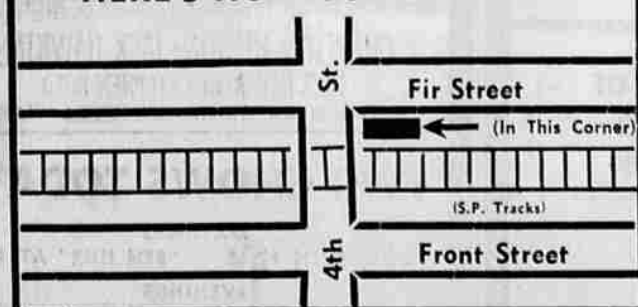
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