

Signal Corps Is Planning Space Radio Satellites

Washington—AP—In its 100-year-history, the U.S. Army Signal Corps has used everything from carrier pigeons to semaphore flags to transmit military messages.

Now it's working on a \$200 million project to bring military communications into the Space Age, with messages flashed to almost any spot on the globe from satellite vehicles which seem to hang stationary in space.

"Project Advent," as it's called, is intended to realize a dream that has intrigued man since the days of Jules Verne. The communications satellites will seem to be permanently suspended in one spot, 22,300 miles above the Equator, because their rotation period in orbit will be precisely the same as the earth's—approximately 24 hours.

The Signal Corps hopes to have three of the communications satellites in orbit by the end of 1964. Preliminary test shots will begin at Cape Canaveral, Fla., in mid-1962.

Instead of circling the earth like the moon and present-day artificial satellites, the "Advent" satellites will remain overhead for 24-hour duty. From their great height, their line-of-sight communications range will reach out more than 5,000 miles in all directions from a point directly below them.

Thus, a Signal Corps station 5,650 miles south of the Equator could send a short-wave radio message to a point 5,650 miles north of the equator through one of these satellites.

Worldwide System
Three of them, spaced about equally around the earth's 29,000-mile waist, would provide worldwide short-wave and television communications, except for the extreme Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Present plans call for satellites weighing about 1,000 pounds each and capable of receiving and transmitting simultaneously at a rate of 120,000 words per minute.

Although test shots will be fired from Cape Canaveral, the point from which the "Advent" satellites will be hurled into space is still uncertain.

The problem in launching is that either the satellite must be fired from a point on the Equator, or else the launching rocket must travel a "dog leg" course so that the satellite slips into an equatorial orbit from a horizontal position.

The orbit must follow the Equator if the satellite is to appear stationary.

Missile experts say the "dog leg" method probably will be chosen, using small guidance rockets to bend the launching course, but the possibility of launching from a platform at sea still is under study.

The Army's hope is to demonstrate the feasibility of such a system for the benefit of private communication firms. At present only two ground terminals are planned—at Camp Roberts, Calif., and Fort Dix, N.J.—to send and receive messages from the satellites.

Strike Averted At Hanford Works

Richland, Wash. — AP — An eleventh-hour personal appeal by President Kennedy, has averted a strike of 3,200 workers at the \$3 billion Hanford Atomic works.

The workers, members of the Hanford Metal Trades council were scheduled to be out on strike today over contract differences with General Electric Co., operator of the sprawling 600-square mile facility.

Kennedy Monday sent a telegram to union and management urging that the strike deadline be extended until midnight of March 31. Both General Electric and the council agreed Monday night.

The President's telegram said he had directed Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg "to make available his good offices" and asked for "a speedy end to this long dispute" in the public interest.

Insurance Agent Named by Company

William J. Gaddis, 700 Academy st., Jacksonville, has been appointed agent in Jacksonville for the Prudential Insurance company, according to Gilbert G. Tipton, district manager.

Gaddis was born and educated in Baker. He studied engineering and police science at Long Beach City college and Compton City college.

He and his wife have four children, Patricia K., 5; Teresa, 4; Ann Marie, 3; and David W., 2. Gaddis is an Air Force veteran.

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