



OPEN SEASON ON REDS. French National Forces paratroopers stand in swamp water, waist high, as they flush out a guerrilla of the Communist Viet Minh forces in French Indo China.

Scientist Sees Peaceful Use of H-Bomb Materials

By FRANK CAREY
AP Science Reporter
WASHINGTON (AP)—An atomic scientist came up today with the first public explanation on how hydrogen bomb materials might be tamed for peaceful uses, such as power:
Electricity discharged through a thin wire might set off a "slowed down" reaction which could be controlled for various purposes, Dr. George Gamow told a reporter.
He said there are other "theoretically possible" techniques that might be even better, but he declined to amplify.
Up until recently the general view, including that of most top scientists, has been that atomic energy could be released from hydrogen only through a terrific explosion.

Gamow, internationally-known theoretical physicist who serves as a consultant to the Atomic Energy Commission, made the comments when asked about a recent statement by Sen. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), a member of the joint congressional atomic committee.
Hickenlooper said that "the hydrogen picture contains some hope, in time, for peaceful and constructive applications."
The senator's statement provided the first indication that atomic officials see a possibility of using hydrogen fusion reactions for something other than projected H-bombs. The AEC has said nothing along that line.
"The consensus of most top scientists has been not only that fusion would involve an explosion in itself—but also that it would have to be triggered by an exploding A-bomb."
Hickenlooper's statement was described by the Federation of American Scientists as "more startling to scientists outside the

AEC than the 'news' and rumors of a hydrogen bomb."
Dr. Gamow said he didn't know what Hickenlooper had in mind.
But he told a reporter that it's at least theoretically possible to get a "slowed-down" atomic reaction with hydrogen bomb materials by causing a powerful electric discharge through a thin wire placed in such materials.
The idea of the electric discharge, he said, would be to provide the tremendously high temperatures required to make such materials fuse.
Asked how even small explosions would lead themselves to control for power purposes, Gamow said it's succession of non-explosive fusion reactions which might in turn trigger a succession of non-explosive fusion reactions which might be utilized for power and other purposes.
Gamow said the ideal way of getting industrial atomic power from hydrogen would be to have furnaces capable of being operated

continuously at temperatures of a few hundred thousand degrees—so as to provide adequate heat for using hydrogen.
But he declared the drawback there is to find furnace construction materials capable of containing such heat without melting away themselves.

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Chief Cook Steals Silver
LONDON (AP)—Humorist A. P. Herbert was furious today at a great admirer of his works—his former chief cook of one day.
The kitchen expert—a lady known only as Mary Jane—started work in the Herbert household yesterday. She prepared one good meal, told her boss how much she liked his writings—then disappeared with 100 pounds (\$200) worth of the household silver.
Scotland Yard informed Herbert—more formally known as Sir Alan since he was knighted by the late King George VI in 1945—that he need not be too hurt. Mary Jane has tricked hundreds of other persons in a similar manner.
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FARM WILDLIFE NEEDS FEED
COLDWATER, O. (AP)—The farm equipment division of the Avco Manufacturing Co. has been asking its customers to "cut corners" because its farm machinery makes it tough for wildlife to exist. A company mailing piece says that the modern corn picker, which scarcely misses an ear or kernel, leaves slim pickings for birds and animals. The company suggests that farmers cut diagonally across the back corner of each field when harvesting to leave a natural shelter and a little store of feed for wildlife.

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