

Russians Building Up Big Fleet of Fast Vessels for Possible Invasion

By ELTON C. FAY
Military Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP)—Swift, highly maneuverable cruisers, destroyers, submarines and troop-carrying merchantmen are going into the sea in the Russian navy, according to the Russian navy's own report.

Some of her submarines are being built in the new U.S. atomic energy program. The Soviet navy is estimated today to have exceeded the total built by the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies.

Currently, Russia is believed to have more than 30 cruisers built in the last few years, including an ultramodern, highly maneuverable ship designated as the Sverdlov class.

One of the class has been built by the Western world, when the Soviet navy's coronation ceremonies last summer. Presumably it and others are based in the Sea of Japan, Murmansk, and the Bering Sea.

Defense Of Cities Up In Air Yet

WASHINGTON (AP)—How should the cost and responsibility of defending U.S. cities in the event of atomic bombing be divided among the state and federal governments?

The question was still open yesterday as U.S. mayors scattered to their cities, leaving behind the National Security Council try to answer it. Two days of meetings with top federal officials had not produced agreement, even within the ranks of the mayors.

A number of the mayors called for more federal help. C. D. Jackson, President Eisenhower's psychological warfare chief, told them yesterday they had the major responsibility for civil defense. Civil defense Administrator Val Peterson said the roles of the various levels of government seemed clear, but he agreed to pass on the mayors' request to his colleagues on the Security Council, the level government policy body.

The mayors adopted almost unanimously a resolution asking the federal government to "re-evaluate the whole program of civil defense" and suggest an allocation of responsibility.

It was proposed after the division of opinion, which at least in part followed party lines, had grown deep.

Democrats like Mayor Joseph S. Clark Jr. of Philadelphia and Mayor Robert F. Wagner Jr. of New York called on the federal government to provide more funds for leadership.

Republicans warned against, as Mayor Norris E. Poulson of Los Angeles put it, "passing too many bills to the federal government."

San Francisco Mayor Elmer E. Smith said the federal government should be more concerned with this problem.

Meanwhile the U.S. Conference of Mayors—which is not the unopposed group that met at the White House—sent recommendations there for the federal government to make a greater contribution to slum clearance and civil defense and maintain its program highway aid.

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visit last summer. Equipment of the Sverdlov class compares favorably with that of the best American and British combatant craft. Fire control radar equipment for the main armament (apparently about six-inch weapons) and anti-aircraft weapons were noted.

Naval men still estimate the size of the Soviet submarine force at about 300 craft, a figure used as far back as 1948. But since then modern craft, presumably including the Type XXVI submarines designed by Germany's submarine experts, are rapidly replacing the conglomeration of older subs which the Soviets had inherited by capture at the end of World War II. The Type XXVI is powered by a closed cycle engine which requires no oxygen for combustion, permitting prolonged operation at great depths and high speed. Underwater speed up to 25 knots is probable, a speed which approaches that expected for the United States' atomic-powered subs now being built.

A major use for Russian submarines would be to attack Allied supply and troop ships bringing help to Europe if the Soviets launched war.

However, on the basis of their own progress in that field, American naval authorities also now reckon with the probability that Russia is building or converting submarines for launching of guided missiles.

The Red fleet has displayed little or no interest in aircraft carriers. But there is believed to exist a sizable naval air arm of land-based aircraft.

Electrical Energy Output Gaining

NEW YORK (AP)—Electrical energy distributed throughout the United States last week rose to \$661,131,000 kilowatt hours compared with \$582,450,000 the week previous.

Last week's total was 6.2 percent higher than the \$149,257,000 kilowatt hours distributed in the like week last year.

All regions of the country showed a percentage increase over consumption in the like week a year ago except for the central industrial area which showed no change. Percentage increases included Pacific Northwest, 27.2.

Probation Problems Discussed

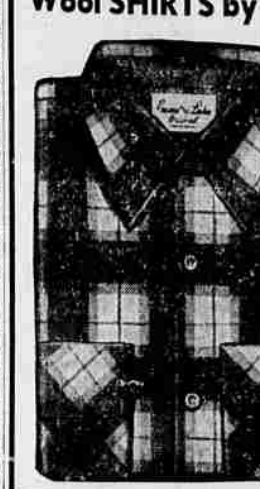
WEED—A general discussion on probation problems was held at the meeting Thursday, Dec. 10, of the Peace Officers Association of Siskiyou county, according to Judge Kenneth T. Stone of Weed, president of the organization.

The discussion was led by County Probation Officer Lester Newton, who spoke on the importance of full understanding between high school and elementary school principals and law enforcement officers in the arrest procedure of juveniles. He also spoke on the procedure in setting bail and the release of juvenile prisoners.

Present at the meeting was W. G. Whitefield, a visitor from Redding, who is investigator of alcoholic and tobacco taxes for the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue. He was introduced by President Stone and gave a short talk on problems he meets with in his department.

Margaret Weaver, assistant probation officer for the county and recently appointed acting secretary to replace Marie Rose Rocchi, who resigned, was absent on official business. Her chief, Lester Newton, acted in her stead. Other business included setting the schedule of meetings for the coming months. The January meeting will be held in Yreka.

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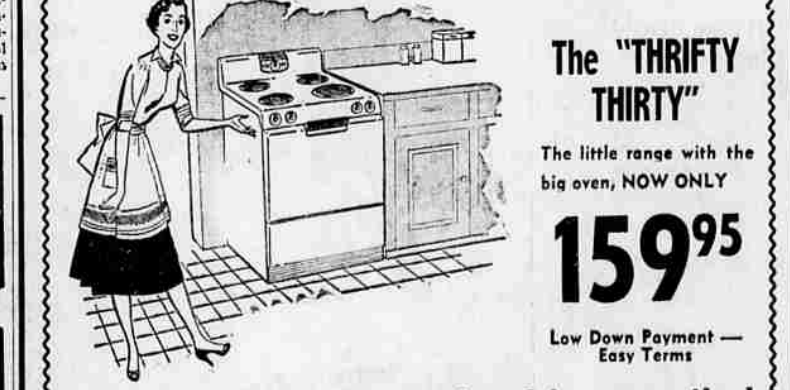
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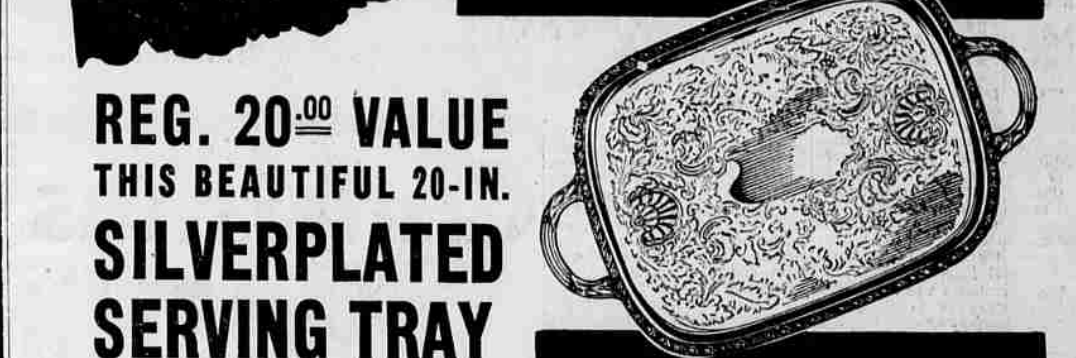
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