

Better Precautions To Be Used In New H Bomb Tests

By ELTON C. FAY
AP Military Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP)—American nuclear weaponers, whose predictions about the runaway H-bomb fired at Bikini missed the mark by millions of tons of force, propose to go ahead with their schedule for more and mightier blasts this spring.

For those tests of the spring series which are thermonuclear, or involving hydrogen bombs, they will rely on two things:

1. An enlarged danger area and improved warning system.
2. A better estimate of the force to be unleashed in subsequent H-bomb tests.

On the basis of comparisons made by atomic authorities in Congress, the March 1 thermonuclear explosion appears to have been upwards of 14 megatons—energy equivalent to that produced in the explosion of 14 millions tons of TNT. (The old atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima had an energy release of 20,000 tons, or 20 kilotons.)

Using information gained from the first, exploratory test of a hydrogen device in the fall of 1952 and adding to it new and intricate computations from laboratory studies, the weaponers made an initial forecast for the March 1 weapon which was substantially less than half the force eventually attained. This first estimate was revised upward before the test shot, it is understood. But even the revised estimate fell several million tons below the power scientists now believe was loosed in the explosion.

IKE STATEMENT

President Eisenhower, in an understatement, said Wednesday something must have happened that we never experienced before, and must have surprised and astonished the scientists.

What happened?

Probably not even the nuclear scientists who devised the weapon and supervised its tests know many of the answers yet nor will they until careful analysis of such recordings as could be made of the explosion are worked out on robot computing machines. A multitude of data, including such things as study of the intensity and coloration of light in the explosion as measured against millionth-second timing, must be scrutinized.

Then, too, it seems probable that the scientists will take another look at the fusible material used in the weapon and its triggering device before they predict the power of the next thermonuclear bomb. The disconcerting and embarrassing thing about the March 1 thermonuclear tests was not, the terrific blast (there has been no evidence that anyone was injured or killed by the explosion which got out of hand) but the erratic

Cleaning Men Plan Convention

For the first time in five years the annual convention of the Oregon State Dry Cleaners Association will be held in Portland, according to an announcement just released by Jack Stacey, secretary of the state-wide organization.

According to Stacey, the Columbia Athletic Club will be the scene of the convalescence on May 7 and 8, 1954. This decision was reached at the mid-winter meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association, held recently in Portland. Industry leaders have indicated that the Oregon Association is the largest in percentage terms, of any other state in the nation. As such it will command the attention of allied businesses and leaders from throughout the country who will attend and present important sales findings, said Stacey. Association director for this immediate area is Marlon Grant, Superior Troy Cleaners, Klamath Falls, Oregon. He is one of ten directors at large for the state association which is headed this year by Lee Fullington, Model Cleaners, Portland, Oregon.

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and far-flung atomic cloud that raced outward from the scene. It touched with radioactive ash the crew of the Japanese fishing craft Lucky Dragon sailing 70 miles east of Bikini, supposedly upwind from the explosion.

There were reports that Japanese fishing boats hundreds of miles to the west had been dusted with atomic matter. In Japan, there were claims that a fall-out from the westward drifting fragment of the cloud had left traces on the homeland of Nippon. There have been published protests. And diplomats have watched to see how Soviet Russia's propagandists would use the incident.

American radiologists, on the basis of reports received so far, believe no fatal or critical injury has occurred either to the Japanese caught under the drifting cloud nor to Americans and natives of the Marshall Islands who also were within its reach.

The Atomic Energy Commission announced March 11 that 28 Americans and 238 residents of the Marshall Islands were exposed to radiation on an atoll to which they had been taken as a precaution before the March 1 test. The commission said none were burned and "all are reported well."

On Wednesday, the American Embassy in Tokyo handed to Japanese officials a statement which said that after a re-study, the danger area from which shipping is excluded during tests has been expanded. That expansion sets a downwind radius of 450 miles, superimposing it on the former smaller zone, which was about 150 by 200 miles. The embassy said the test task force also has "greatly increased the scope and intensity of its elaborate and continuous survey of the danger area" by planes to make certain no vessels stray into the zone and that ample warning will be provided.

All of this made it quite apparent the United States, unless new and presently unforeseen factors emerge, intends to push forward with atomic weapon experiments at the Eniwetok-Bikini proving ground.



THE ESCONDIDO INN at Olene was wearing a fringe of icicles when this picture was taken many, many years ago. In its heyday it was one of the main stage stops and freight line points along the east road. It has since been remodeled into a modern home. —Picture from Leo Donavan

POPE RECOVERING
VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Pius, an automobile ride and walk in the Vatican Gardens Friday for recovering from long illness took the third consecutive day.

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Group Works To Free Applegate

A "grass roots" effort has been started in Medford to gain the release of Richard Applegate, Medford press correspondent, who was taken prisoner with two other men by Chinese Communists in March, 1953, just a year ago.

According to a letter received this week from Mrs. Frank Applegate, Medford, mother of the war correspondent, Dick's high school friends have started a letter writing campaign, to be addressed to E. J. Madill, assistant director of the office of protective services, in the state department. The letters have been put in stores, banks, hotels, lumber mills, packing houses, and churches of all denominations.

Persons interested in getting copies of the letter or helping in the effort have been instructed to contact Mr. and Mrs. John A. Lynch, 139 Kenwood, Medford.

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