

AF Ponders Navy Plane Purchases

WASHINGTON (AP)—Air Force interest in the Navy's new jet sea-plane bomber has advanced to the point where it is considering an initial purchase of four or five of the big, fast flying boats for study purposes.

A recommendation for the purchase was reported today to have been made, probably to the Air Force Council. The council is composed of high-ranking civilian and military officials who consider aircraft requirements, designs, budgetary needs and other factors.

The Navy, for which the Glenn L. Martin Co. produced the experimental model of the Seamaster, presumably will have priority on delivery of production models.

First official evidence of Air Force interest came last Saturday when the Air Force vice chief of staff, Gen. Thomas D. White, said in an address that new engine developments "may enable the water-based bomber to take its place alongside other Air Force airplanes."

White said it was conceivable that a jet-powered airplane might become an effective bomber for wartime strategic missions.

However, there have been indications that the Air Force wants to start trying out the Seamaster now, in its present jet-powered version, without waiting several years for the advent of atomic engines for airplanes.

The Seamaster is rated at a speed of about 600 miles per hour, putting it into the class of the Air Force's own medium and heavy jet-powered bombers.

Tactically, airmen consider a primary advantage for the sea-based bomber could be dispersal—getting bombers away from dependence on overseas airfields which are within striking distance of Red planes. It also would make possible air strikes from directions not predictable by an enemy.

Iran Backs Anti-Red Pact

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran lined up officially today with the Western-backed Middle East defense alliance, closing a major gap in the anti-Communist world's defense chain south of the Soviet Union.

The Iranian government announced its adherence to the Baghdad Pact, which already unites Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan and Britain in a mutual defense agreement.

With Iran, the Middle Eastern group forms a solid land belt from the Mediterranean to the Himalayas. The North Atlantic Alliance extends the chain on across southern and western Europe, the Atlantic and North America.

Premier Hussein Ala announced he had sent a Foreign Ministry official to the Baghdad headquarters of the Middle East pact with a note advising that the Iranian government would submit its adherence to the treaty to Parliament for ratification.

Approval of both houses of Parliament is necessary, but the Shah's strong support of the treaty was believed to assure its ratification.

Opening the Senate Oct. 8, the ruler said: "It is fitting that my government take the necessary steps and precautions for the defense of our frontiers as well as for safeguarding the rights of our country."

AF Prepares 'Shot In Dark'

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP)—Air Force scientists tonight take a literal shot in the dark in a new series of upper-atmosphere research.

At approximately 20 minutes after ground sunset, the Cambridge Air Force Research Center will fire an Aerobee rocket at near-Holloman Air Development Center designed to probe some of the secrets of dawn and dusk.

Just what can be expected, Air Force spokesmen are not willing to say.

The project has drawn more publicity than the Air Force cares about. It started when a British scientist announced in London that the U.S. Air Force would attempt to create artificial moonlight.

The Air Force has done its best in subsequent publicity concerning the event to knock down any expectations that tonight's tests will be spectacular.

Basically, the experiment involves the introduction of sodium vapor at an altitude of between 40 and 70 miles above earth. The Aerobee rocket, equipped with special mechanism at this point, contains containers of metallic sodium pellets dispersed in thermite, will be launched from the southern New Mexico desert if weather conditions are "near perfect."

If conditions are not such that clear observation can be had both from the launching site and from the main observation post atop 8,000-foot Sacramento Peak some 14 air miles distant, then the tests will be postponed for 24 hours.

In effect, the test is purely a scientific one with no military application at this point. Main purpose is to test the accuracy of scientific beliefs that a layer of natural sodium hangs in the thin atmosphere.

LAGGING
LONDON (AP)—Pravda Tuesday accused P. I. Pershin, head of the Soviet Ministry of Machinery and Instrument Manufacturers, of ignoring Communist Party criticism of "lagging" in his ministry.



BIDDERS LOOK OVER A John Deere tractor at the used equipment auction at Crater Lake Machinery Company Monday. Almost 100 pieces of used machinery were offered for sale, as the firm plans to close out its used machinery department here. It will, however, continue to sell used machinery at its Tulelake outlet. More than 350 persons attended the auction, which was presided over by Auctioneer Dan Roth of Albany.

Food, Feed, Fibre Products This Year Near Record High

WASHINGTON (UP)—The total output of food, feed, and fiber from the nation's farms for 1955 is almost certain to be the second highest on record because of favorable crop developments in September.

The Agriculture Department's crop reporting board said Tuesday crop developments during the last month were favorable for most crops "and as of Oct. 1 strongly upheld estimates of total output as the second highest on record." The record total crop was grown in 1948.

The board said the progress of the fall harvest has brought "important to moderate" increases in production estimates over Sept. 1 for cotton, hay, sorghum grain, rice, peanuts, and tobacco, and

"slight increases" for corn and dry beans. Slight decreases were estimated for soybeans, flaxseed, potatoes, sugarbeets, sweet potatoes, and hops.

The most prominent increase was announced Monday in the Oct. 1 cotton report, which placed the 1955 crop at 13,900,000 bales. That is well over last year's crop and much more than the department asked farmers to grow in face of a huge surplus.

The corn crop was estimated at 3,100,000,000 bushels, only 4,000,000 bushels above the September estimate. If the estimate holds up, the 1955 crop will be the sixth largest on record. The department announced Tuesday it will support the 1955 crop at \$1.58 a bushel, or 87 per cent of parity.

The corn production estimates for Iowa and Illinois were the same as last month, with Illinois holding a 40,000,000 bushel bulge over the additional No. 1 corn-producing state. Illinois has not led Iowa in corn production since 1951. There was too much hot wind, low humidity, lack of moisture, and mid-summer drought for Iowa to retain the Corn King title this year.

Soybeans weighed in at an estimated 375,000,000 bushels, up 9 per cent from last year, while sorghum grain is expected to total 229,000,000 bushels, 12 per cent more than in 1954.

The all-wheat crop, estimated at 916,000,000 bushels, is down 6 per cent from last year.

Estimated rice production is 15 per cent under a year ago, while hay is forecast at 5 per cent higher.

Potatoes, estimated at 387,000,000 bushels, are 9 per cent more than a year ago.

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But, you may ask, if Lucerne is "Bonus Quality" why doesn't it cost more?

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