

New Chemicals By Reds Could Paralyze Pentagon

By RAY CROMLEY
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NEA) — An inconspicuous man with a brief case could openly walk into the Department of Defense, put his brief case down near an appropriate vent in the ventilation system and cause the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and all their assistants to lose their sense of reality for hours.

The "brief case" would be filled with a new Russian chemical. That gas would act so subtly that neither the Joint Chiefs nor anyone else would realize what had happened to them. It would make them just irresponsible enough to not care what was happening. It would cause them to use flippant judgment in deciding on crucial issues. But it wouldn't make them obviously "out of whack."

In a time of crisis, that could be disastrous to the U.S. And it could be done by one Red agent — pretending to be a salesman, a newspaperman, or a repair man. The Pentagon doors are open to the public five days a week; the vents are also open. A brief-case-full of the gas would be enough for the entire Pentagon.

Or another ordinary dressed man could sit quietly in a visitor's gallery of the U.S. Senate. He could have in his pocket a small squeeze bottle no larger than one a woman uses to spray lacquer on her hair.

A few silent squeezes—with the bottle never leaving his pocket—and the whole Senate would be breathing this gas. They'd turn quietly but inconspicuously irresponsible. Suppose again, this was a time of international crisis.

Again, it would be impossible to know what had happened. Who would be able to say to the Chiefs of Staff, or the Defense Secretary, or to a bevy of Senators, "You have been gassed, your judgment is irresponsible?"

Or suppose a few whiffs of this gas were circulated in the proper time in the ventilating system of the White House?

Or suppose Red airplanes spread a fog of this gas over an American Army in the field just before a crucial battle—either in World War III or in a Korea-type "brush war."

American experts estimate it would be practical to spray an area say 10 miles by 20. The troops — and their commanders — would then probably wander off irresolutely in all directions, without a care in the world. The Red armies would have no trouble advancing, American troops would become a laughing stock.

These are not dream chemicals. They are part of a new series of gases the Russians are now working on. U.S. intelligence men report these mentioned above are already in the laboratory stage, and could be used in small quantities.

Other—woven better ones—are being worked on experimentally. They should be ready in the next few years.

Indications the U.S. is not ignoring development of such gases came in recent testimony by retired Gen. William Greasy, former head of the Chemical Corps. He told a House committee that biological or psycho-chemical warfare could be waged with "devastating force" with gases the enemy "couldn't see, smell or feel."

He advocated the U.S. announce it has these weapons and intends to use them in event of war. The effects of the gases known now will last for a few hours. Scientists say work now is aimed at gases which will have effects that will last for weeks. These seem practical.

Present gases, in fact, are just the beginning.

The Soviets are searching for a whole battery of chemicals to do a wide range of jobs. They want chemicals that will paralyze men temporarily, chemicals that will make men "cooperative," chemicals that will make men run in fear. There's one chemical in the works that will make a man not want to do anything at all, another that will make him think he's violently sick for a while — even though he isn't.

These chemicals could be delivered by agents. One man could carry enough in a small case to take care of all the officials in a key building, using its ventilation system. The chemicals could be delivered by ballistic missile, or by plane.

There's little or no danger the whole U.S. would be sprayed with these particular chemicals. They're not practical for large areas. But they would be suitable and extremely dangerous on the battlefield—and for key factories, headquarters and offices.

At present, the U.S. has no real defense. A few of these dangerous chemicals are known. Many others are not. No one knows which the Russians will use.

There's no quick way known to detect them, no way quick enough to be of much use anyway. And there are no known antidotes for many of the possible chemicals the Russians might use to make Americans afraid or irresponsible or jittery.

Provine wouldn't take the soup unless she first tasted it. She took a spoonful. Provine took eight. Then Provine's mother-in-law, Helen Vecchio, entered and called police.

Provine was taken to a hospital where his stomach was pumped out and the wound dressed. He was listed in fair condition.

EXPANSION SET
CHARLOTTE, N. C. (AP) — A branch bank here is getting a branch of its own.

First Union National Bank officials say their plaza branch in a suburban area has outgrown its confines. So a small structure with two drive-in windows is to be constructed just around the corner.

Morty Meekle



TODAY'S 2-MINUTE MYSTERY

THE CASE OF THE DEAD CHEF

By Donald J. Sobol

In the kitchen of his restaurant, The Lobster Joint, the body of Al Peltz lay covered by a police blanket.

"Al was too generous," sobbed Mrs. Peltz, wife of the murdered man. "He fed every hobo who came to the door."

"We think robbery was the motive," said Sheriff Monahan gently. "Your husband's pockets were empty. Did he normally carry a lot of cash?"

"About \$200," replied Mrs. Peltz. "I think that fellow in the khaki shirt must have done this terrible thing. Five minutes before I discovered Al's body, I came into the kitchen to pick up an order for table six. Al was talking to this man—why, that's him!"

An unshaven little man wearing a dirty khaki shirt suddenly broke away from the crowd of curious onlookers outside the kitchen door. The sheriff shouted to a deputy who collared the fugitive and hauled him before Mrs. Peltz.

"Look, lady, I was here," the man gasped in fright. "But I didn't do nothin'. The fella with the apron said he'd give me something to eat. He put a big red lobster into the pot and told me to come back in 20 minutes."

"C'mon!" snapped the sheriff. "You realized that Mrs. Peltz had seen you, and that we'd comb the county for you. A nice bluff coming back here. Now where did you hide the money?"

"I don't know nothin' about any money!" wailed the man. "I wouldn't lie."

"What innocent person needs to," said Haledjian with a sigh. "And yet a whooper has been told in this room!"

Who lied?

The man in khaki lied when he said Al put a big red lobster into the pot. Lobsters turn red only after they've been boiled.

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Layoffs Continue To Mount In Industry Hit By Strike

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Layoffs of workers continue to mount in businesses affected by the nationwide steel strike, one week old today.

An estimated 45,000 employees of railroads, coal mining firms, shipping companies and other businesses are off the job. In Cleveland Monday 1,900 more workers were furloughed, increasing to 3,900 the number laid off since the strike began.

Several hundred truck drivers were laid off by Cleveland firms that haul steel. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad laid off 50 workers in Cleveland and 200 in the Youngstown, Niles and Warren sections of Ohio. Three Great Lakes shipping companies furloughed 850 seamen because cargoes of ore could not be unloaded at steel mill piers.

The General Refractories Co. announced in Philadelphia 500 workers have been sent home because refractory brick can't be shipped to the steel mills.

The Delaware & Hudson Railroad said in New York it has had to drop 155 men from payrolls at its Colonia and Oneonta shops because of reduced shipments. Most of the men were given vacations.

In Roanoke, Va., the Norfolk and Western Railway laid off 852 railroaders.

In other developments, the Commerce Department made plans in Washington to channel available steel to high-priority military and Atomic Energy Commission projects in the event such action is necessary.

Meanwhile, action still is pending on petitions by the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. for injunctions to ban the union from what the company calls illegal picketing at its plants in Aliquippa, Pa., and Pittsburgh. J. & L. contends about 400 to 500 supervisors are locked in the plants. The union denies the charge.

X15 Slated For 6th Test

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The X15 goes aloft today in its sixth test flight at Edwards Air Force Base to determine how quickly it can dump an 18,000-pound fuel load.

At the controls will be Scott Crossfield, North American Aviation test pilot of the research aircraft. He will not release the X15 from its mother plane, a B52G. The two planes will land together after the X15 has checked the rate of flow for jettisoning its fuel load.

SCOUT NEWS

CAMPING TRIP

Boy Scouts of Troop 4 took an overnight camping trip to the Skyline Trail June 15 and 16. They swam and fished. The following boys participated in the outing: Clayton Davis, Ronald Patsch, Dean Guyer, Jerry Gospodnetich, Bill Mills, John Haldiman, Michael Shufelt, Don Aschenbach, Richard Eastburn and Jimmie Beene. The boys were accompanied by Bill Green, scoutmaster, and Bill Brittain, assistant.

The troop will spend the period between August 2 and 8 at Camp Makualla on Crescent Lake.

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Police Probe Murder Try

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Police say a 21-year-old blonde fed her husband rat poison in soup she said would heal a stab wound.

Police held Mary Provine Monday on an open charge of investigation of attempted murder.

Detectives Charles Hindcliffe Jr. and Edward Kennedy said Provine had been locked out of his apartment Sunday night.

When his wife let him in they argued. She said she loved someone else. They fought and she stabbed him in the shoulder with a bread knife.

After she tried to stop the bleeding, he pleaded with her to call a doctor. She refused and went out to get something for the wound.

She returned minutes later saying a druggist had given her some mustard seed. If she put it in soup, she said, it would stop the bleeding.

Provine wouldn't take the soup unless she first tasted it. She took a spoonful. Provine took eight. Then Provine's mother-in-law, Helen Vecchio, entered and called police.

Provine was taken to a hospital where his stomach was pumped out and the wound dressed. He was listed in fair condition.

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Girl Killed In Accident

DETROIT (AP)—Deborah Anne Tomanovich received a little red purse from her aunt Monday.

The 4-year-old girl was proud of the gift because she had clothes to match it. First she went to her bedroom and put on her red shorts.

Then, police said, she pulled out the bottom drawer of a dresser standing close to her sister's crib. Deborah stood on the bottom drawer and pulled out the top drawer to get her other red clothes.

Her weight tipped the dresser and it fell against her, pinning her by the neck to the crib. She was dead on arrival at a hospital.

Heart Seizure; Kidnaper Dies

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A man attempting to kidnap his estranged wife at knife point died of an apparent heart attack while struggling with her, the coroner's office reported today.

Ronald S. Rickard, 38, went to his wife's nearby Norwalk home Monday pulled a five-inch hunting knife and forced her to get in his car, said Mrs. Rickard, 42. When he stopped at a filling station, she jumped out and he started to chase her but suddenly collapsed and died.

The new Boeing 707 jet planes can transport 180 passengers at a cruising speed of more than 605 miles per hour for 4,000 miles.

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