

Momentous Indecision Looming For This Year

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The coming twelvemonth likely will go into history books as a memorable year of momentous indecision.

Already 1960 is beginning to shape up as a year of high-powered, jet-propelled diplomacy which promises to be far more spectacular than fruitful.

In prospect is a summit conference of the heads of the four great powers. But the travels of world leaders are hardly likely to be limited to that, now that a pattern has been laid down with such commanding authority in 1959 by President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Khrushchev.

Statesmen, politicians and leaders probably will be engaged in what will have the look of a frantic search for formulae purportedly aimed at preserving the peace, but without surrendering either national interests or national ambitions.

The statesmen of the Big Four also will appear to be searching for a plausible-sounding approach to disarmament. It is doubtful that they will have much hope, prospects or even intentions of any serious degree of disarmament yet. While the world remains carved into basically hostile blocs, as it seems destined to be for a long time, the notion of anything approaching the total disarmament, now being talked of with such portentous seriousness by world leaders, can be little more than a pleasant dream.

There can be little in the way of decision in the disarmament field, nor is there likely to be much in the way of decision with regard to other major problems grating on the world's nerves.

For one thing, 1960 will be a presidential election year in the United States, and the outcome of that voting will have important bearing upon the diplomatic wars to come.

Barring a dramatic accident, 1960 seems fated to become a year of furious activity dedicated to the major purpose of marking time.

Here is how the prospects look for the world's major troubles as 1960 dawns:

FOR NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, 1960 can provide the excuse—should he need it—for pulling the rug out from under those who welcomed his determined 1959 peace offensive as a harbinger of lessened tensions.

By the end of this year the United States will have a new president, a new administration.

Khrushchev has hailed President Eisenhower as a man of peace, but he has made no such commitment with regard to the man who will succeed Eisenhower.

However, Khrushchev himself likely is in a mood for marking time, for waiting to see what happens. He will have worries close to home to contend with.

In the Soviet Union itself the trend toward rising popular demand for more and better consumer goods is not likely to be checked. In the satellite nations of Communist-ruled East Europe, there promises to be a need for a Soviet crackdown to remove the political dangers which Khrushchev himself has admitted have come from the deflation of the Stalin myth.

Red China, too, likely will become an increasingly burdensome problem for Khrushchev. Its brand of communism and that of the Soviet Union seem in opposite directions. And the Red Chinese, in addition, give every evidence of intending to throw their weight about to demonstrate their authority as the paramount power in Asia.

THE RED CHINESE do not seem to intend to surrender the momentum of their bid to command the fearful respect of the world around them. They are unlikely to want to become involved in anything as serious as open hostilities with their neighbors at this point. But their noise and their pressure are likely to continue—the noise concerning what they claim to be the necessity to liberate Formosa, the pressure reminding their neighbors of their fearsome potential for throwing the world's hopes for peace into a tailspin.

In the Middle East, too, leaders are apt to be marking time, waiting for 1960 to pass into history after giving some indication of the direction of world politics thereafter. The Middle East is nervous. Its young men—in the Arab East, in Iran—are stirring with a feeling of revolt against the past. Its leaders and rulers have cautiously been mending fences.

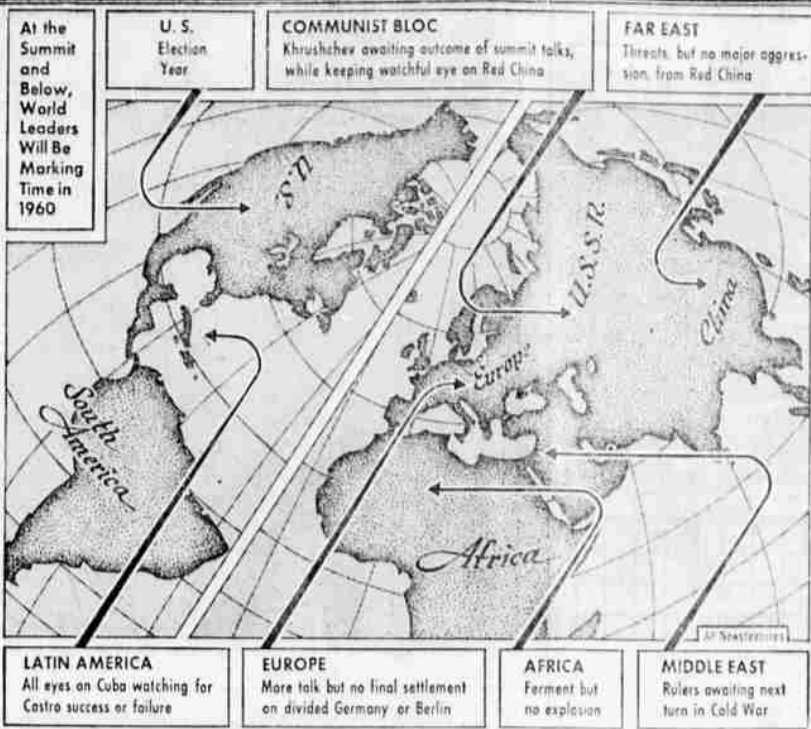
THE FRENCH will continue trying for a way out of the dead-end in Algeria, but with hopes only for highly limited success in the year to come. The rest of Africa, like the Middle East, also seems to be stirring with revolutionary ferment, but the time for an explosion does not yet seem to be at hand.

There can be no hope whatever for solution to the problem of divided Germany, which is a key question of European politics. The Soviet Union has served notice of the permanency of the East German Communist regime. Short of war that is unlikely to be changed.

Similarly, there seems little real hope for anything approaching a permanent solution of the charged question of divided Berlin. That question, and the one of disarmament, will be what a summit meeting will be all about, if and when it comes to pass. Concessions backing away from the basic Western position about the West's right in Berlin, and West Berlin's right to continue its independent existence, are likely to be considered so expensive as to be downright frightening.

AT BEST, it would seem, a summit meeting could reach an agreement between the Communist world and the West to continue sparring and to avoid permitting the issue to explode into war.

Interest will continue to center upon the troubles of revolutionary Cuba under Prime Minister Fidel Castro. Whatever happens there—whether the Castro movement falls on its collective face or muddles through its enormous and constantly growing problems—Cuba will have an impact upon the rest of Latin America and thus present the United States with new and troublesome problems of foreign policy.



Record Year For Business, Balanced Budget, Viewed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The prospect of a record business year and the possibility of a balanced budget despite last year's steel strike were held out today by government officials.

In world affairs, it will be a year of challenge to the United States and its hopes for peace, Secretary of State Christian A. Herter commented.

Declining to characterize his New Year's statement as either optimistic or pessimistic, he said there is "a new atmosphere of helpfulness for the solution of world problems," but added there has been no real change in communist intentions.

Secretary of Commerce Frederick H. Mueller added a few ifs also to his prediction that the national output will reach the rate of 500 billion dollars a year within the next six months and continue upward during the year.

"Should there be excesses in credit, severe inflation and stubborn selfishness in strike deadlocks," Mueller cautioned, "then prosperity could be checked."

The revived talk of a balanced budget was more a hope than a prediction, but Treasury officials said that even if it isn't achieved the deficit will be smaller than they had feared a couple of months ago.

September estimates of a 95-million-dollar surplus for the year ending next June 30 had all but been abandoned as the steel strike dragged on. There was talk of a 500-million-dollar deficit.

But barring a resumption of the strike late this month, officials said there still is a good chance of breaking even.

The next official estimate of the situation is due Jan. 18, when President Eisenhower sends to Congress his budget proposals for the next fiscal year.

Two minor developments Thursday dampened further the prospects of any quick steel settlement, despite the increased prodding of administration officials.

The United Steelworkers Union prepared a new court action saying the companies are not providing reports required under the old contract. It also took issue with some of the companies' advertising statements.

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Men's Store Loses Payroll

DETROIT (AP) — The men's wear department at a local department store lost its shirt Thursday.

Someone walked off with a \$5,452 payroll.

Supervisors were calling at the cashier's windows to collect pay envelopes for employees in their departments.

A man stepped up and said, "I'll take Men's Wear and Men's Hats." He signed the name of the supervisor, took the 56 pay envelopes and left.

Three hours later the real supervisor went to get the pay and the theft was discovered. The employees received their pay. The firm is working out a new distribution system.

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Rescue Crews Search Ruins For Workers

COLBY, Wis. (AP) — The ruins of a feed mill and grain elevator ripped by two violent explosions were sifted today for the bodies of two men believed dead in the wreckage.

The building was shattered Thursday and swept by flames that continued to burn in isolated areas past midnight. Damage was estimated at \$250,000.

Three men were hospitalized. The explosions rocked this north central Wisconsin community of 1,000 persons. The mill was the town's largest building, with elevators five stories tall. It was 300 feet long. Chunks of concrete were thrown 100 feet.

Leo Lukovic, a commercial photographer, said the explosion "Seemed to lift me right off my feet." His shop is a half block from the mill.

"I ran out on the street and debris was still flying through the air," he said. "The whole building was a mass of flames and the roof had been blown completely off."

The community's power and communication lines were knocked down and the town cut off for more than an hour. Officials were unable to sound an alarm and the lack of electricity cut off pumps that were needed to keep up water pressure.

Coroner Robert Luloff said the missing men were Jess Degner, 55 and Arnold Elpeurt, 42.

More than 100 volunteers kept up the search.

The blast was blamed on an accumulation of milling dust.

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Pair View Happy 1960

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—The year 1960 holds happiness for John Armonas, 54, and his daughter, Donna, 24.

His wife, Barbara, and their son, Johnny, 19, have started the first steps on their way from behind the Iron Curtain to the family home in nearby Wickliffe.

Donna, who hasn't seen her mother in 13 years, received a cablegram Thursday from the Lithuanian village of Pasvalys.

"I filled out the forms for myself and the boy for getting exit visas," she said.

Mother and son have been trapped in Europe since 1940. Both were born in Lithuania, and were detained there after World War II by the Soviets.

Donna appealed directly to Nikita Khrushchev when the Soviet Premier was in Pittsburgh last September. He assured her she could expect her mother and brother soon.

Timber Firm Loses Fight

YREKA—Siskiyou County superior court Judge James M. Allen granted a final \$10,000 judgment on behalf of W. L. Cobb, E. T. Cobb and W. L. McCallie against A. L. Harding, Inc., and Bate Lumber Company of Oregon on Monday.

Initial hearings on the civil suit were started here on September 16, 1958, and involved mining claims owned by the plaintiffs in the Elliotts Creek district of Siskiyou County. The defendants were also restrained from trespassing on the mining property by court order.

The original suit, filed by the plaintiffs, was for 16 million dollars in damages for construction of a timber access road across 22 unpatented claims. Judge Allen's memorandum on his decision was issued October 30, and filed Monday, December 26, in the county clerk's office.

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