

PEACE NEWS LETTER

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To the Memory of One Who Gave Himself
In the Cause of Peace

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General of the United Nations
1953 - 1961

"There is world-wide grief over Hammarskjold's death. And, maybe, in spite of incredible difficulties ahead, this is a very hopeful thing. For the first time in my life I have felt sad that a leader of the world community is dead and that this could affect my life. Perhaps that's a sign that the world community is at last real."

-- Rev. Clarence Fuller
Melrose, Massachusetts

NUCLEAR TESTS Howard C. Green, Canada's Minister for External Affairs, in his address to the United Nations (NY Times, Oct. 4) asked the UN to insist on an end of Nuclear testing. He pointed out that during the last two weeks of September, Radioactive fallout had increased 1,000 times in Toronto.

Said Mr. Green: "The time has come when it is not sufficient merely to express concern and to record blame: We must find a means of compelling the countries responsible to cease the testing of nuclear weapons."

On the same date, the Senior delegate of Pakistan, Muhammad Zafrulla Kahn said: "The resumption of nuclear tests constitutes a present, operative and progressive danger to human health and welfare and the very continuation of human life on earth."

NUCLEAR ARMS & BERLIN Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the New York Times reports the concern of the Air Force to the effect that it believes America has been making an over-emphasis on non-nuclear war. The Air Force believes such a war cannot be fought successfully in Europe and that it would lead ultimately to impairing the Air Force's capability of delivering Nuclear Weapons through the processes of attrition which such 'conventional' war would bring. (Oct. 2)

"Nuclear weapons, rather than conventional arms, are the key to the Berlin crisis in the opinion of many United States generals and diplomats in Europe.

"One of the principal problems as viewed by American eyes in Europe is to convince Premier Khrushchev that the United States will utilize nuclear weapons, if forced to, in defense ... of its vital interests in Berlin....

"They fear that Khrushchev believes the United States is bluffing, and some think he has shown signs of overconfidence.

"Past United States actions have given him good reason to think so, they say ..." They believe Mr. Khrushchev "is prepared to go to the brink of war -- and that the United States must be similarly prepared if it hopes to preserve peace ... They believe that the threat of nuclear devastation is the only deterrent that Mr. Khrushchev really fears. They point out that NATO and United States forces in Europe are committed to the use of the nuclear weapon" and military strategy has been built around it.

VOICES have been raised, even on the floor of the U. S. Senate (Senator Margaret Chase Smith on Sept. 21) urging that we make it clear that we are prepared to use the nuclear bomb over Berlin.

FALLOUT is not only Radioactive. In a broadcast on Sept. 20th, dealing with the Soviet Resumption of nuclear tests, Corliss Lamont, longtime friend of the Soviet Union, revealed that just 18 days prior to the first Russian explosion, Soviet and Chinese Communist delegates to the Japan Council Against A and H. Bombs, voted unanimously for a resolution which said, "The first government to resume tests should be denounced as the enemy of peace and of mankind." The tone of Lamont's broadcast indicated his disappointment in what the USSR had done.

BERLIN & POLAND Arthur J. Olson (NY Times, Sept. 17) reporting from Warsaw said: "... many Poles are worried that the rise in international tension will give greater influence to the always ready exponents of Communist orthodoxy and 'social discipline.' In the Communist world, troubled times tend to multiply the authority of the 'hard men' in domestic affairs.

Poland for five years enjoyed an "unusual margin of personal freedom" unique in the Soviet Camp, and there is apparently much concern that the latest crisis in Central Europe will bring about retrogression rather than progression in political developments, at least as understood from democratic perspectives.

HOW SAFE WILL A SHELTER BE? John W. Finny, (NY Times, Oct. 2) reports that "the 100 megaton bomb that Premier Khrushchev said is being built by the Soviet Union could be a massive incendiary weapon. It could start fires over an area larger than the state of Vermont," that is, as far as 60 miles in every direction from the center of the explosion. These effects Civilian Defense people now feel would exceed the blast effects and would mitigate the protection of fallout shelters. Indeed, such shelters might trap families far from target areas in the flaming wreckage of their homes.

SAN FRANCISCO TO MOSCOW The peace marchers who left San Francisco several months ago reached Moscow on October 3rd. Some 31 persons, including 15 Americans, marched into Red Square where they handed out pamphlets and carried posters (in Russian) advocating unilateral disarmament and the end of Nuclear Tests. Although prevented from making speeches advocating unilateral disarmament and the end of tests, the group was received with applause. (NY Times, Oct. 4)

Later in the week the marchers met with some 200 Moscow University Students and before them urged unilateral disarmament and the cessation of tests. When some of the Professors sought to close the meeting abruptly, because the marchers were treading in a politically sensitive area, the students present shouted down their Professors and demanded that the marchers be allowed to continue talking. (Dallas Morning News, Oct. 7)

TEXAS SAFER THAN NEW YORK The editor has often missed his many friends in up-State New York and elsewhere along the East Coast. He has also missed the beauty of the hills and the changing seasons since moving to the former Lone Star Republic. But there is one thing which he has not missed, and that is radio-active fallout. Oh, we get our share, but about half that of New York State according to a report on "Strontium-90 in the total diet" in Consumers Union, Oct., 1961

Further, we have been favored as some 12 eastern and northern states have not with respect to the residues from recent Soviet Testing. In mid-September Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Abraham A. Ribicoff, stated that the levels of radioactivity then reached, if maintained for a prolonged period, would constitute a health menace.

Most debris from Soviet Tests has been carried over Canada, but much was pushed down into Northeastern U.S.A. because of a polar air mass pushing down into the U.S.A. from Canada. (Waco News Tribune, Sept. 19)

FOR THE SAKE OF CONSCIENCE James Syphers and Paul Cole were guests of Onondaga County, New York, from Tuesday, October 3rd through Friday, October 6th, in the penitentiary at Jamesville. These two were among numerous persons in New York State who refused to take shelter during last April's Civilian Defense test, and among the smaller number who paid the penalty for disobeying the New York statute which makes refusal to comply punishable by fine and imprisonment.

SYRACUSE MEETING The Syracuse Peace Council sponsored Norman Thomas at a lively meeting on September 25th. About 350 persons were present, and wonder of wonders, a meeting sponsored by SPC was well publicized in the press. It was probably the speaker, and not the organization, that brought out the reporters!

ROUND-UP In Texas, we round up the cows. In Syracuse, we round up the peace workers. It's Round-up Time, and the affair will be held on Saturday, October 28th, from 9:30 to 5:00 at the Erwin Methodist Church, 920 Euclid Avenue, Syracuse. Bayard Rustin will be the featured speaker, with a new approach, workshops involving action projects by those attending. Get up a carload and attend!

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