

Soviet East-West Plan On Mideast Refused

Moscow Seeks Joint Measures

MOSCOW, Feb. 12 (AP)—The Soviet Union proposed today a cooperative Big Four effort to guarantee peace in the explosive Middle East. It would include agreement on an economic development program, ending of arms shipments and junking of Western bases in the area.

Outlining a six-point Middle East proposal to the Supreme Soviet-Parliament, Foreign Minister Dmitri Shepilov said the Russians are ready "to examine every initiative which would ease relations between the Soviet Union and the three Western powers."

Armament to Continue

"But while our peaceful foreign policy is meeting with stubborn opposition from the ruling circles of certain capitalist states, we will continue to develop our glorious armed forces and hold our rifles in our hands," Shepilov said, and then, to loud applause from the 1300 deputies, he added: "And not only our rifles."

Shepilov said the Soviet proposals had been sent to the United States, British and French ambassadors. The program he outlined was viewed by Western diplomats here as the Kremlin's answer to President Eisenhower's doctrine for stabilizing the Middle East.

Peace Offensive Hinted

The mildness of Shepilov's long statement of foreign policy suggested the Soviet Union, perhaps wanting a cooling off period, is heading into another peace offensive.

Seeming conciliatory on some points and unyielding on others, Shepilov outlined these six points to the Middle East:

1. Maintenance of peace in the Near and Middle East through settling disputed questions exclusively by peaceful means, by negotiation.
2. Noninterference in the internal affairs; respect for sovereignty and independence.
3. Renunciation of any attempts to include these countries in military blocs with the participation of the great powers.
4. Liquidation of foreign bases and withdrawal of foreign troops.
5. Mutual renunciation of the supply of arms.
6. Cooperation toward economic development without making any political, military or other conditions whatsoever "incompatible with the dignity and sovereignty of these countries."

Man Develops Hardest Crystal

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (AP)—The hardest substance ever made by man—an entirely new material—has been created by tremendous pressure and heat, General Electric scientists announced today.

It is a crystal hard enough to scratch a diamond and able to stand twice as much heat. Named "borazon," it is expected to have "far-reaching impact" in industrial polishing and cutting operations, they said.

Dr. Robert H. Wentorf, a 30-year-old physical chemist from West Ben, Wis., is credited with the discovery of borazon. A member of the GE research team which produced tiny man-made diamonds two years ago, Dr. Wentorf used a similar method to produce borazon crystals the size of grains of sand.



Dmitri T. Shepilov
Soviet Foreign Minister

Western Europe Plans Vast Zone Of Free Trade

PARIS, Feb. 12 (AP)—The economic ministers of 17 nations today pledged support of a plan to turn non-Communist Europe into one vast free trade zone of 300 million people. It is potentially the world's richest market.

Sir David Eccles of Britain called for a treaty by July to launch the plan to tear down tariffs. But he made one reservation that threatened to delay the program.

Industrial Goods Only

The chairman of Britain's Board of Trade told the Organization for Economic Cooperation only industrial goods should be included. That would leave tariffs on agricultural products.

Economic Minister Jens Otto Krag of Denmark objected strenuously. Krag said Denmark as an agricultural country could not join under such conditions. Portugal, Italy and Greece took the same view.

Special Case Cited

Krag conceded Britain's commitments to import agricultural products from Commonwealth nations created a special case. In brief, tariff-free agricultural products from Europe might undercut Commonwealth exports.

Commerce Minister Gunner Lange of Sweden and Finance Minister Paul Ramadier of France saw hopes of a compromise on the question.

Zone Includes:

The zone would embrace Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Britain.

Tariffs in the 17 nations would be eliminated gradually over a period of about 15 years until all would be able to buy and sell freely among member countries.

Penn State's ace gymnast, Armando Vega, of Los Angeles, was a member of Uncle Sam's 1956 Olympic team.

U.S. Denounces Propaganda Bid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)—The United States swiftly turned down today Russia's terms for cooperating with the West to end the dangerous Middle Eastern tensions.

The White House denounced the six-point Soviet proposal as a transparent bid to wreck President Eisenhower's plan to guard the region against Communist aggression.

Speaking a few hours after the Russian proposal was made public, presidential press secretary James C. Hagerty said:

"Obviously this is a Russian move to try to discredit or stop the Eisenhower plan for the Middle East."

Sums Up Reception

Hagerty's comment, issued at the President's vacation headquarters at Thomasville, Ga., summed up the cold reception to the Soviet proposal which was evident at the State Department.

Top officials after a quick study labeled it a Soviet "propaganda hodgepodge" aimed at persuading Arab countries that Moscow can be counted on as their only real friend in the area.

These officials forecast that Arab governments would not be fooled by Moscow's effort to wrap into a new package such repeatedly rejected demands as dismantling of Western bases in the area, withdrawal of Allied forces and a scrapping of all defense alliances.

Call for Big Four

The Soviets also called for Big Four cooperation in promoting an economic development program for the area.

Initial congressional reaction clearly reflected the administration's view although Sen. Sparkman (D-Ala) said he "wouldn't like to see the proposal turned down cold."

Sen. Long (D-La), who like Sparkman is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee added: "It would be interesting if they mean business. The trouble is the Russians don't mean what they say in their declarations."

American Communists Declare Independence

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (AP)—The American Communist party today declared its independence of Moscow.

It voted overwhelmingly in the final session of a four-day convention to do its own interpreting of Marxist-Leninist principles.

Such action—following a Communist course along independent and national lines—is commonly called "Titoism," although the American Communists did not use that term.

Grapplers Go on Road

Penn State's wrestling team goes on the road for the last three meets on its schedule. Home climax will be the Eastern intercollegiate championships, March 15-16.

Oil Men Attribute Boosts In Price to Higher Costs; Not Middle East Excuse

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 (AP)—Spokesmen for independent oil producers contended today that industry costs have outrun income and the recent oil price boost was justified regardless of what happened in the Middle East.

Justified or not, Senate investigators were told that the higher prices will raise the fuel bill of the armed services by

85 million dollars a year, hike costs of municipal power plants by nearly 30 millions, and put some of these plants out of business.

Representatives of the latter suggested maybe the government ought to slap on controls and roll prices back.

Witnesses Called

Witnesses with conflicting views were called in by the Senate Monopoly and Public Lands subcommittees.

Under Chairman O'Mahanoy (D-Wyo.), they are looking into the oil lift to Europe, necessitated by the closing of the Suez Canal and the Iraq pipeline, and complaints that oil companies used the resulting oil shortage in Europe as an excuse for hoisting prices here at home.

Objections Voiced

The independents objected to such charges. They protested, too, that they are being blamed for what Russell B. Brown called "the failures" in the oil-for-Europe program whereas they said the blame rests with 15 large oil companies the government organized into the Middle East Emergency Committee to help Europe through a crisis.

Brown is general counsel of the Independent Petroleum Assn. of America, an organization of 7500 independents, mostly producers, and 4500 associates.

Oil Goal Cited

While Brown spoke of failures in the oil lift in one breath, he said in another that European nations currently are receiving "in the order of 90 per cent or more of their normal requirements." The administration goal was to supply these countries with 75 per cent of their requirements.

Moscow Blasts U.S. Policies Of 'Aggression'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 12 (AP)—The Soviet Union tonight accused the United States of aggressive actions around the world and called for a General Assembly debate on the situation.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vassily V. Kuznetsov made the charges in a letter to Prince Wan Waitayakon, president of the UN General Assembly. He asked for action by the Assembly without delay.

Hits Military Bases

Kuznetsov charged that the United States has committed aggressive actions by building military bases in Western Europe, Turkey, Iran, Japan and Okinawa capable of using atomic weapons.

He charged also that American bases in England, France, West Germany, Italy, Turkey and Iran constitute a threat to peace.

'War Budget' Condemned

Kuznetsov complained that the U.S. budget contained unprecedented expenses for war preparations. He said money was being appropriated to build new bases in Brazil, a jet plane base in Pakistan, and Air Force bases in Taiwan and West Germany.

Kuznetsov did not present a resolution. The procedure will be for the Assembly Steering Committee to decide whether to recommend consideration of this new item. The committee will meet tomorrow.

Fairless Hints at Aid Cut

TOKYO, Feb. 12 (AP)—Benjamin Fairless said today "if any country wants communism, my answer to that is to let them have communism."

The chairman of President Eisenhower's Citizens Committee on Foreign Aid hinted at a news conference the committee's March 1 report may recommend a cut in American assistance to uncommitted Asian nations, the neutrals in East-West affairs.

"I think personally the free world is definitely winning the

cold war," said Fairless, former head of the U.S. Steel Corp., at the closing stage of a world study tour launched Dec. 27.

"Undoubtedly," he said, "Europe would have gone Communist except for America's postwar Marshall Plan support."

"I don't know if similar aid can save Asia. It is very hard to save anybody unless they want to be saved."

"As far as you and I and the United States are concerned, we are attempting to help people help themselves."

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