

Red Moves Puzzle Ike; Khrushchev Rejects Letter

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower said yesterday he is puzzled about the purpose of current summit conference moves by Russia.

Some State Department officials say privately that the Soviet government may be backing away from a summit meeting, feeling that it cannot get a conference on its own terms.

\$160 Million Cut In Foreign Aid Voted by House

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Foreign Affairs Committee voted yesterday to cut 160 million dollars out of President Eisenhower's "rock bottom" foreign aid program.

Some committee members have predicted the cuts will read 500 million before the authorization bill reaches the House floor.

Eisenhower is asking for \$3,942,092,000 to carry the Mutual Security program through the fiscal 12 months starting July 1. The money would be used for military and economic aid to nations around the world.

Rep. Thomas Morgan (D-Pa.) reported the first slash came out of the \$1,800,000,000 the President has requested for military aid.

Conferees Rule Out 5-cent Stamp Rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate-House conferees Wednesday voted to eliminate a 5-cent stamp for out-of-town letter mail from a postal rate hike bill and to fix the rate at 4 cents.

President Eisenhower and Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield had urged Congress to establish the 5-cent rate on intercity letters. The present 3-cent letter rate has been in effect since 1932.

The conferees also voted to include in the bill a 257-million-dollar pay hike for the 500,000 postal employees. This is considerably more than Eisenhower had proposed.

AF Fires Secret Nose Cone Rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A massive rocket with a new, highly secret nose cone blasted off last night with a tremendous flash of yellow flame seen over most of Florida.

The rocket's mission was to hurl the nose cone 5,500 miles over the southeast Atlantic, to see whether it could withstand the fantastic friction heat of the earth's atmosphere as it plunged back from some 80 miles in space.

The Air Force hoped to recover the cone after it crashed on its ocean target area somewhere near Ascension Island, off the African coast. The flight was to take only 30 minutes.

One aim of the spectacular shoot was to try out a nose cone designed to keep the warheads of long-range ballistic missiles from burning up in the atmosphere as they dive to their targets.

The other was to determine how this wedding of Air Force and Navy rockets will work out.

Predictions on Recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower Wednesday described the recession as a "minor emergency." He said it is being met and, "I don't think we should get hysterical about any of this business."

Eisenhower told a news conference it has been evident for two or three weeks that "the rate of decline has been flattening out." He credited his administration with "a very impressive record" in combatting the slump.

Once again, the President left a tax cut to the indefinite future. He said he doesn't believe it restores confidence just to say suddenly: "Here is some kind of a tax cut."

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's living costs, still moving counter to the recession, rose to another record high in March. But officials said this summer may bring a leveling off of the two-year consumer cost spiral.

The Labor Department announced that climbing food prices pushed its March living cost index up.

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A 3500-word letter from Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev delivered to the White House Tuesday and made public yesterday rejected President Eisenhower's latest disarmament schedule letter and said the Soviet Union will not explode any more atom or hydrogen bombs "unless the United States or Britain compel it to."

In the first puzzling instance Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko suggested that he negotiate separately with the U.S., British and French ambassadors in Moscow on steps toward setting up a summit session. Officials here said this would be an extremely awkward and time-consuming way to hold diplomatic talks.

The second development puzzling to American officials was Russia's appeal to the United Nations Security Council to condemn U.S. Strategic Air Command bomber flights toward the Soviet Union in the north polar region.

Prof Receives Patent

The U.S. Patent Office has issued a patent on Means for Releasing Buoyant Objects Underwater to Edward J. J. Tracey, Jr., assistant professor of engineering research in the Ordnance Research Laboratory.

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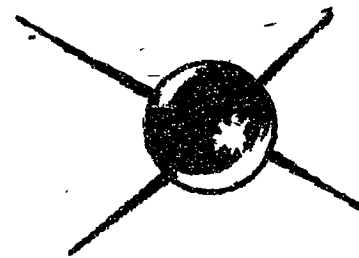
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