

Mechta's Voyage Called Rehearsal

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet scientists told newsmen yesterday Mechta's space voyage can be considered a dress rehearsal for bigger and better rockets, though they haven't yet licked the re-entry problem for manned flights.

"I can assure you we will not stop at this," Vice President Alexander Topchiev of the Soviet Academy of Sciences told a news conference.

"There isn't a spot in the universe today which could not be reached by rocket," he said. "This would of course require time, but the wait would not be long."

A panel of Soviet scientists devoted an 80-minute news conference, to generalities concerning their 1½-ton prodigy and what it means in the future exploration of space.

Topchiev announced that Mechta had practically entered orbit as the solar system's first artificial planet.

The distance figures are calculations. They are based on the speed and direction of the rocket when it was last under observation, plus what is known of the cosmic forces that strip it in the void of interplanetary space.

The rocket is far beyond optical tracking now and its radio is dead. The scientists said it had successfully completed all tasks assigned to it before passing out of range.

They avoided any comment on technical details of the rocket's construction or the fuel used to hurl it into space.

Barriers Lifted For Mikoyan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department lowered its travel barriers yesterday to let Moscow's No. 2 man, Anastas I. Mikoyan, go just about anywhere he wants to in the United States.

The first first deputy premier of the Soviet Union, plans to visit at least half a dozen American cities beginning today.

Some of the cities have long been out of bounds for Soviet diplomats and visitors unless they got special permission.

The system of setting up such restricted areas was started by the Soviet Union itself a decade or more ago. The United States adopted reciprocal restrictions beginning in 1952.

The State Department press officer, Lincoln White, announced that the department has issued permission for Mikoyan to travel to restricted areas. "The Soviets asked exceptions and those were granted," White said.

Saud Threatens War

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The Cairo newspaper Al Kahira said yesterday King Saud of Saudi Arabia warned UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold that war will break out in the Arab world if Palestine Arab refugees are not returned to their homes.

The newspaper said Saud delivered his warning in a talk with Hammarskjold Monday.

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Africans Clash With Police; 34 Fatalities

LEOPOLDVILLE, Belgian Congo (AP)—Order was gradually being restored yesterday in this jungle city after bloody rioting by Africans demanding independence.

At least 34 Africans have been killed and another 100 seriously injured in the clashes that started Sunday between police and Africans.

The city is still under a virtual state of siege, but transport has been restored.

Europeans have been armed in case of further outbreaks of violence. Paratroopers rushed from the military base at Kamina are standing by.

The riots began after a political meeting of Congolese where the future independence of the Congo was discussed.

The word independence acted like a spur. The Africans invaded the European section of the city, ransacking and firing stores. Catholic missions and police stations were attacked and set ablaze.

Order was restored with the help of armored cars and barbed wire roadblocks.

U.S.S.R. Adamañt On Free Berlin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan indicated last night the Soviet Union is standing firm on its demand for an end to four-power rule of Berlin.

He told this to newsmen after a more than two-hour review of foreign policy problems with Vice President Richard Nixon.

Asked if the Soviet Union has changed its position in any way on Berlin, he replied:

"Why change it? One does not change a good position."

Mikoyan's comments, made outside Nixon's office in the Capitol, contrasted with hints he dropped earlier on a softening in the Soviet's position to turn East Berlin over to its puppet East German regime in May.

The meeting between Mikoyan and Nixon was arranged at the former's request. The Soviet Embassy termed it a courtesy call by Mikoyan.

Mikoyan broadly hinted Monday at possible Soviet concessions to make any new deal over Berlin more acceptable to the Western Big Three countries. One of these was reported to be formal guarantees of free access to the city via mail, water and air routes.

Cuba Annuls Congress; Suspends All Courts

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)—The revolutionary government dissolved Congress yesterday and announced it will rule Cuba by decree for at least 18 months when new elections are planned.

The government suspended all criminal courts, regarded as a symbol of the fallen dictatorship of President Fulgencio Batista, and was reported preparing a decree abolishing all political parties.

The provisional regime dismissed all provincial governors, mayors and councilmen. Apparently their functions will be taken over by new civilian appointees prepared in advance for the task.

Other decrees, informed sources said, would ban all candidates in the 1954 and 1958 elections from Cuba's political life, freeze the private bank accounts of all Batista officials, and stop the cashing of all outstanding checks against the Batista regime.

Revolutionary courts were reported being prepared to try Batista, now in exile in the Dominican Republic, and other officials who may be accused of crimes during his rule.

In Washington, U.S. Atty. Gen. William Rogers said Tuesday Batista would not be granted asylum in the United States if he sought it.

Batista is now in the Dominican Republic.

Soviet Premier Dislikes Truman, Dulles; Not Ike

NEW YORK (AP) — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has a high regard and deep respect for President Eisenhower, but dislikes former President Harry S. Truman and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

This was reported yesterday by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) who had an eight-hour conference with Khrushchev at the Kremlin on Dec. 1.

Humphrey quoted Khrushchev as saying of the President: "He is a very honest man who wants peace."

As for Truman: "I did not like Truman, I did not like Truman's policies, but Truman did make decisions."

The senator said Khrushchev termed Dulles, "imperialist" and "warlike."

"I am sorry that the policies of the United States are made by Dulles. It is not just I who do not like Mr. Dulles. If you don't think so, read the British press and the French press and the press of other countries."

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