

West Threatens War—'K'; U.S. Successfully Launches 'Saturn'

MOSCOW (AP)—Soviet Premier Khrushchev accused the Western powers yesterday of threatening war over Berlin even though, he said, the Soviet nuclear weapons arsenal is stronger than the American.

U.S. Claims Soviets Admit Commitments

WASHINGTON (AP) — While U.S. and Soviet tanks faced each other on the border of East and West Berlin, the State Department said yesterday the appearance of the Soviet tanks was an acknowledgement of Soviet commitments in the city.

"The movement of Soviet tanks into East Berlin is a belated admission of the responsibility of the Soviet government for what goes on in that sector of the city," press officer Lincoln White declared.

White, reading an official statement, reiterated that the Soviet Union cannot transfer its obligations in Berlin to the East German Communists by its own actions.

If Moscow seeks a peaceful solution, as it claims to be doing, then "it should insure that unilateral actions are not taken," White said.

He accused the Soviet Union of "hiding behind the back" of the East Germans and of "looking the other way" while the East German Communists make trouble on the border.

The Soviets, White continued, "cannot ignore their responsibility, they cannot pretend that this responsibility no longer exists or is the responsibility of someone else."

Insisting he wants only peace, he told the 22nd Soviet Communist party congress the Soviet Union would never try to dictate its will to other nations.

He reiterated he would not insist on a Dec. 31 deadline for a showdown on Berlin. But he warned a German settlement cannot wait indefinitely and the West must show willingness to negotiate. He gave no hint of yielding on Soviet positions.

President Kennedy was pictured as "faced with the arduous task" of overtaking the Soviet Union in the field of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union was forced to resume nuclear tests "in the face of direct threats and the danger of a war," the Premier asserted. He said Soviet scientists were doing everything to reduce the harmful aftereffects of the tests.

Referring to Western protests against East German controls over Allied traffic in East Berlin, the Premier said the Western powers "want us to insure, like traffic police, the transportation to West Berlin of their military freight, spies and saboteurs."

"Who do these gentlemen take us for?" he asked. "Do they actually believe that they can do anything they want and that they can make us act against our vital interests, against the interests of world peace and security?"

In a wide-ranging address, ending two weeks of speechmaking before the party congress, Khrushchev also declared the Soviet economy was so strong "that from the heights we have reached we can now challenge the most powerful capitalist country, the United States of America, to a peaceful economic competition."

BERLIN (AP) — U.S. and Soviet tanks, barely 200 yards apart, aimed their guns at each other across the explosive Berlin sector border last night in a tense demonstration of rival power.

For 2 hours and 20 minutes, West Berlin's 6,500 U. S. garrison troops stayed on battle alert.

The general alert was canceled in midevening but an official said "an adequate force is being kept on continued alert."

In a battle of nerves centering on Allied rights of free movement throughout Berlin, the American and Russian tanks in turn rumbled up, withdrew, then rolled up again to the border.

The development took place as Washington and Moscow traded protests over the tense border situation.

U. S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson delivered in Moscow an oral denunciation of a demand that U.S. officials in Berlin show identification of documents to East Germans.

The State Department in Washington charged that the appearance of Soviet tanks in Berlin was a belated admission of Soviet responsibility for East German harassment of Allied personnel entering East Berlin.

Taylor to Leave Thailand Today

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor all but wrapped up his fact-finding mission in Southeast Asia yesterday, and a U.S. diplomat described him as impressed by the determination of Thailand and South Viet Nam to remain free of Communist domination but somewhat pessimistic about the military situation in South Viet Nam.

President Kennedy's special military adviser, preparing to start for home today after a week in this troubled area, held final conferences with military officials of Thailand, ambassadors of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and top American representatives based in nearby Laos.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The giant Saturn rocket thundered through a perfect maiden flight yesterday and the United States at last had the firepower needed to race the Soviet Union to the moon.

With an unearthly scream of its eight engines, the world's mightiest known booster rode 1.3 million pounds of thrust to an altitude of 95 miles then dived back as planned to sink to the bottom of the Atlantic 200 miles down range.

President Kennedy, who has pledged that Americans will walk on the moon in this decade, was among those who watched the awesome blastoff of the 162-foot-long rocket on television.

He had no immediate comment.

Despite the complete success of the initial flight, Saturn will not soon erase the Soviet lead over the United States in booster power. Under the present schedule, it will be at least three years before Saturn is ready to hurl a three-man Apollo spacecraft into orbit around the earth.

And it will be 1966 before the rocket, which then will have a thrust of three to four million pounds, will be able to propel Apollo into orbit around the moon.

Yesterday's performance does not mean that this program can be accelerated, scientists said. It is being held up by development of the second stage, which will not be ready until 1963.

However, Dr. Wernher von Braun, the German scientific ace who was instrumental in building Saturn, said information obtained yesterday will bring improvement of the rocket before the next flight next March.

To plug the gap until Saturn is ready, the Atlas will be mated with a hydrogen-powered second stage next year. This booster, to be called Centaur, will match the weight-lifting power of Soviet vehicles and will be able to drop exploratory instruments on the moon to prepare the way for manned landings.

Nova, which is scheduled to

succeed Saturn in the program, will be used to place men on the moon with its 20-million-pound thrust. This could come as early as 1967, well before the decade's end.

Space Countdown Simulated At Canaveral for Newsmen

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — In the brightly lit room, eight men sat around a large table topped by banks of electronic consoles, listening intently into head phones, their eyes fixed on dials, flashing lights and other indicators.

A rangy Pennsylvanian with glasses and sandy hair barked commands into a microphone.

"Twenty-five minutes and counting," he said. "Verify ground measuring voltage."

A technician at one of several rows of instrument panels 20 yards away replied that voltage was all right, and the countdown continued.

More than 60 men, most of them in shirtsleeves, moved crisply about the large room but without a show of excitement.

That was the way it looked in the Saturn launch control center several days ago when newsmen witnessed the final 30 minutes of a simulated countdown for yesterday's first firing of the big rocket.

Newsmen were not present for the real thing yesterday, but the scene was undoubtedly much the same.

On the basis of a river of information, the specialists can tell whether the launch should be delayed or called off, whether the flight is going according to plan,

whether action is needed to destroy the rocket.

The launch team is a veteran outfit, most of the men have worked together for years.

The rangy man calling the shots is test conductor Bob Moser, 33-year-old native of Johnstown, Pa.

He had similar assignments in the launching of America's first satellite, Explorer I, and in the suborbital space flights of astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr. and Virgil I. Grissom.

All information is funneled to Moser. He keeps the countdown going or calls a "hold" if something goes wrong. If major trouble develops, the ultimate decision is left to Dr. Kurt Debus, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's launch operations directorate.

Jury Convicts Scarbeck Of Revealing Secrets

WASHINGTON (AP)—Standing erect and stone-faced, former diplomat Irvin C. Scarbeck heard a jury yesterday pronounce him guilty of revealing embassy secrets to Polish Communist agents.

Scarbeck, 41, a short, broad-shouldered man with a tall shock of wavy, greying hair, showed no emotion as each juror was polled and answered "guilty" to three of the four counts involved.

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