

# Airlift to India Reported Ready

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—An American airlift was reported yesterday as set to start rolling U.S. arms into India by the weekend to back up Prime Minister Nehru's fight against Chinese Communist invaders.

Informants here said the first U.S. Air Force transport will arrive tomorrow, carrying mostly mountain artillery sorely needed by Indian forces falling back in the Himalayas under superior Communist firepower. Heavier weapons are expected to be rushed in—the first coming from the U.S. base in Turkey.

A LULL IN the shooting along the disputed 1,500-mile frontier was reported but bigger battles appeared shaping up.

The Red Chinese opened mortar fire at Indian patrols around the village of Jang, five miles east of the strategic monastery town of Towang, overrun by the Communists last week.

The Indians, building up a defense line on the nearby 13,940-foot Se Pass leading to the Assam plains, held their fire.

V. K. Krishna Menon, still

haughty despite his ouster as defense minister, toured the front and met Lt. Gen. Brig Johan Kaul commander of the Indian corps in the northeast.

Menon defended the fallbacks of Indian troops after the Red Chinese launched their attack Oct. 20, explaining these were strategic to afford better fighting positions.

Menon, often a critic of the United States, told a crowd at

Texpur that India would accept help from where ever it comes. He described his demotion to defense production minister as "merely a move to bring more strength into the administration."

**THE TERMS UNDER** which the American aid is being given have still to be worked out—the same as for weapons already sent by Britain and coming from Canada.

## Russian Vehicle Launched for Mars

MOSCOW (AP)—The Soviet Union launched an instrument-loaded space vehicle yesterday on a probe toward Mars, Tass news agency announced. It hopes to photograph the planet at close range.

The vehicle, called Mars I, will make the journey in more than seven months, the announcement said. Its weight was given as 983.5 kilograms — 1,966 pounds or almost a ton.

The Soviet Union hopes to do better with Mars than the United States had done in its space shot at Venus Feb. 12, 1961.

The United States launched Mariner II toward Venus on Aug. 27, but it is expected to miss by 20,000 miles when it passes the planet Dec. 14.

**TASS SAID ITS** shot is the first Soviet attempt to plumb the secrets of Mars at close range.

The tracking of the probe, the determination of its flight course and reception of scientific information on the earth are to be carried out "by a special measuring complex and a distant space radio-communications center," the agency said.

# McNamara Authorizes Freeze On Active Air Force Reserves

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara yesterday authorized the Air Force to freeze enlistments and appointments of 14,214 reservists called to active duty last week-end when the Cuban crisis reached a climax.

Thus, any officer or enlisted man whose term of reserve service was due to run out would be kept in uniform.

**McNAMARA'S ACTION** appeared to indicate no early release for these reservists. There had been some speculation they might be let out when the Cuban crisis passed.

The reservists may be kept in

uniform for as long as a year under the terms of special authority granted by Congress. It gave President Kennedy power to call up to 150,000 reservists and national guardsmen to meet emergencies while Congress is out of session.

Before calling up the Air Force reservists, McNamara froze enlistments and duty-tours for all Navy and Marine officers and enlisted men to help sustain the blockade of Cuba and the reinforcement of the Guantanamo Naval Base.

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