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Moscow Uses Atomic Issue To Stress "Peaceful Policy"

(Preliminary Report)

The USSR has continued to exploit popular anxiety over the future use of atomic energy in an attempt to garner support for its policies and discredit those of the US. Following is a summary of the USSR's present treatment of this issue:

(1) The Soviet Council of Ministers announced on June 1, 1954, that a 5,000 kilowatt atomic power plant had been placed in operation at the disclosed site in the USSR on June 2, and "produced electricity for the industry and agriculture in the neighboring region." Work was also being under way to set up atomic power stations "with a capacity of up to 100,000 kilowatts." A lack of a demonstrable correlation between this announcement and earlier Soviet propaganda treatment of the subject of atomic energy for peace suggested, however, that Moscow had waited until the end of May to announce a spectacular achievement in this field.

(2) Although Soviet spokesmen, notably in the UN Committee on Disarmament and Security, took steps to play down the threat of retaliation and to place the emphasis of stress on the need for an unconditional ban on the use of atomic weapons, Moscow continued to use direct and indirect threats and ultimatums.

(3) The USSR continued to show itself sensitive to the proposals of the Committee of the UN Trusteeship Council (among proposals which were the direct effect of prohibiting or stigmatizing atomic tests in general and in the context of a general ban on use of atomic weapons).

(4) At the same time, there were indications that the USSR might be planning to blame US nuclear tests on contamination of the atmosphere in Eastern Europe.

(5) In UN Disarmament talks on the subject of July 1954, the USSR opposed Western Powers proposing a conference on Europe in the near future. The USSR spoke of the "exceptional importance" of agreeing to a ban on the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons at the conclusion of armament talks. The USSR reiterated that an agreement not to use atomic weapons was a "very important step forward."

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These developments represent in part an effort to reconcile its propaganda line with conflicting policy considerations of interest beginning last December in expecting further development of Soviet atomic attack was clearly not consistent with Soviet propaganda of the use of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, Moscow has apparently recognized the contradiction and has continued both lines. At the same time, Moscow has stressed its "leadership" in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy, but has been careful not to encourage its people to hope for any immediate resulting improvement in their standard of living. The USSR has also apparently wanted to exploit agitation in the West for a ban on tests, but has done so in terms which would not unduly encourage freedom of tests. Soviet interest in making disarmament a symbol of Soviet leadership has been hampered by Moscow's unwillingness to offer a concrete international control scheme. The Soviet orders have ignored this possibility, simply avoiding any detailed discussion of the mechanism of control, while focusing on the beguiling slogan of harnessing the atomic energy for peace.

Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy. The latest Soviet propaganda in applying atomic energy for peaceful purposes recalled a highly expansive claim in 1940 in response to the report of the first atomic explosion (which TASS ascribed to "collaboration with the capitalist imperialist means.") Although the satellites in 1944 gave credence to the claim, the USSR was using atomic energy to fuel the Ob and Yenesei rivers. In Soviet press appeared to place this act on record. In a report to the General Assembly, Vishinsky stated that study that atomic energy was used by the USSR for blowing up mountains to obtain gravel for the building of the Szabad Nep on July 2, with the assertion that the first atomic explosion took place in the Kara Kum desert and was used to provide gravel for the sake of industry. In the light of the recent announcement of the greater interest to recall the claim made by Radio Moscow in 1949, that "in the future the Soviet atomic power industry will be organized in form of a single high voltage grid covering the entire country and connected to power stations."

Soviet spokesmen have continued to speak generally of the importance of the peaceful use of atomic energy. In April and May, however, Moscow was urging that attention be devoted to the peaceful use, warning that the application of atomic energy was a "matter of life and death" and apparently seeking to discourage hopes of imminent progress in the peaceful application of atomic energy independent and prior to the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. The effort of Pravda on May 11, 1949, to place the US the blame for the breakdown of the talks on the peaceful use of atomic energy was particularly noteworthy. Pravda noted that the US had "tempt to divert a small part of atomic energy to other peaceful uses."

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"deception" but explicitly denominated it as a violation of the laws of the marketplace to supply electric power -- the field in which the new power plants are being built -- possibly because they ignore the fact that building this power plant is not an atomic raw materials' are converted into explosive fissionable materials which constitute the basis for the production of atomic and hydrogen weapons. In a speech on June 5, however, several Soviet newspapers attacking the announcement of competition from atomic industries and its coming US program, stated that it may have been intended to forestall the announcement of the USSR's entry into the quest for atomic industrial power.

Soviet propaganda suggests furthermore that last year's power plant at the end of May lest the US proceed unilaterally to establish a monopoly of atomic electricity and blame the USSR for lack of cooperation was the only reason for the delay behind the power plant announcement. The readiness of the USSR to proceed appears to be little more than a bluff. One capable of generating power for 1,000 families) suggests that it is sufficient for domestic power needs of the national government. Conceivably, it is intended to be a prototype of a power plant which ultimately to be incorporated into the power plant grid.

Moscow has differed in the handling of the power plant announcement for domestic and foreign audiences. Whereas Soviet propaganda has insisted in glowing terms of changes "in our entire technology" and "the production of energy" making "unnecessary hard on electric work," officials who spoke to people generally emphasized the extent to which the plant would be able to supply the West in terms designed to forestall US research and development in favor of an early improvement in living standards.

UN Disarmament Talks The UN Disarmament Commission, which opened in restricted session in London for its 15th session on June 10, 1954, and the full Commission, confirmed that there has been no significant progress in the disarmament in Soviet thinking since the Commission's 14th session in 1953. It is to review the report of its Sub-Committee on Preparation for Disarmament. It will report to the UN General Assembly at the fall session. The Commission has seriously to discuss either a US or Soviet paper on the new proposals of an international control organ or a British-Soviet proposal for a program during the stages in a disarmament program. The USSR insisted, however, on discussing what it termed its "new" disarmament proposals in detail. These proposals provided for the signing of a convention banning family appeals for banning the use, production and storage of atomic weapons, including "control" (i.e. inspection mechanisms), reducing nuclear weapons to a third within a year of signature of the convention, and maintaining a nuclear base on foreign territory as well as "war" propaganda. The latter two proposals, they relate to these issues in the Soviet press of June 24, 1954. The Commission continued to form the basis for the Soviet position that the USSR would accept a relaxation of tension.

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specifically urged the US to recognize the full extent of its own control over its own territory, citing the Soviet example.

Natural Disasters to be Blamed on Testing - A letter from the Soviet Embassy in Washington, casting abroad on July 5 a letter in the name of the Hydro-Meteorological Service of the USSR from the President of the Japanese Meteorological Society, Moscow appeared to be a special program of the USSR aimed at a ban on the testing, manufacture and use of weapons of mass destruction and urging the publication of "experimental data on the pollution of the atmosphere and other weather phenomena which might follow by a general test ban." The letter suggested that pollution of the atmosphere by a general test ban would cause "cold spells in summer" and that "the present hot spells are caused through the poisoning of sea water and the atmosphere by nuclear tests." A similar "scientific" analysis was published in the Soviet press on July 17 signed by four Soviet meteorologists. In both cases, the meteorologists were sufficiently cautious, but the charge of cold spells by test ban was a scapegoat for food and crop problems of the world.

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Atomic Information

An atomic-powered electric propulsion system will expend not more than 20% to 25% as much energy as a conventional "Pioneerskaya Pravda" article April 20, 1958, "The Atomic Age". In a discussion of atomic power, the author states that the energy "rearranging the planets" is a "rearranging of the planetary travel which will enable us to leave the surface of the earth, and later the only one."

Information received subsequent to a copy of paper broadcast to Brazil dated July 1958

The Soviet delegation to the World Health Conference in Rio de Janeiro told the press that the USSR will build a 5,000 kilowatt atomic energy plant in 1960. It is also stated that atomic plants will be placed in a space program as early as 1960, with a plant of 100,000 kilowatts.

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