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U.S. should "play it close to the vest"

IT is cheering to learn that the Russians are not planning to stake any claims on the moon as a result of the landing of their cosmic rocket there Sunday. This morsel of news is encouraging in both international military and real estate circles. On the one hand we need not worry about Russian rocket bases poised up there above us at night nor do we have to ponder yet, how we are going to finance our own rocket men to the moon to make sure that it is subdivided correctly.

Seriously however, it brings that much closer the fact that while millions of people starve and billions of dollars are poured into earth-bound defence systems, the Russians are still a notable distance ahead of anything the western world has yet produced.

It is all very well for United States vice-president Nixon to claim the Russians failed three times in the past two weeks in attempts to hit the moon with a rocket. We don't know who he's trying to comfort but we don't see any American rockets plopping onto the moon.

The Yorkshire Post comes nearer to the core of the matter when it says "The moon is probably quite unperturbed by the impact of this projectile from outer space . . . but not so the earth."

We cannot go along with the American scientist who said it would be easier for the Russians to hit the moon than to hit New York. That boy has a short memory, for while the distance was considerably shorter 14 years ago when the Germans were dropping V-2s with reasonable accuracy on London and Antwerp, fantastic advances have been made since then.

No, Russia's successful rocket was timed to coincide with Soviet Premier Khrushchev's visit to the United States and as he lands in Washington today, those broad Russian features will be wreathed in smiles at his country's scientific victory. For that reason it would appear reasonable for U.S. politicians to be congratulatory, firm but not talk too big until we know that we have the edge and not Russia.

Be firm, alert against Communists

GOD willing all will go smoothly while Russia's Premier Khrushchev is making his 13-day visit to the United States. By that we mean that the Soviet leader learns first-hand about the Western way of life, that no fanatical former displaced person sets off a world conflict by assassinating Khrushchev and that the talks between Mr. K and President Eisenhower manage to thaw some aspects of the "cold war."

This visit by the Russian premier is indeed a historic occasion. No Communist premier since Lenin reshaped Russia's history has ever visited the United States.

The fact that it has come about, however, indicates that the United States clearly recognizes the need for easing the tension between the east and western civilizations. The two cannot continue to go their separate ways forever. That Russia, with its satellites and its Communist Chinese "big brother," has grown more powerful and is spreading its influence to an ever-increasing degree, is becoming more evident every day.

Therefore it is essential, in this push-button age of rockets which can hit the moon within 250 miles of the estimated target, that no one step out of line.

The most evil aspect of it all is that while Russia works its octupus-like will on the peoples of Europe and the Far East, it is aided and abetted by loathsome followers and fellow-travellers in every part of Canada including Prince Rupert. Throughout Canada the Communists carry on their insidious campaign, particularly in labor unions, of infiltrating, splitting, smearing, provoking, terrorizing, intimidating and destroying. They follow Lenin's word "That our task is to utilize every manifestation of discontent and to collect utilize every grain of even rudimentary protest . . ." to further their own nefarious ends.

That is why Canadians should constantly be on the alert against any form of Communist activity, even in its mildest form, in these days when Russia's malignant tentacles are creeping further and further into the western world. The world leaders can no longer afford to wave the big stick at the Soviet giant. Neither can they afford to ridicule nor insult. A firm, sincere insistence that our way of life is superior to that of the Communist, with an unbreakable determination not to bow to the blandishments of the Reds, is necessary at both the top political level and in the everyday life of the average man. It is to be a life-and-death struggle for the diplomats at the "summit" and the man-in-the-street.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Khrushchev here to sell Soviet way of life

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Associated Press News Analyst

NEW YORK (AP)—The dynamo from Moscow blasted into the United States today on a mission dedicated to convincing Americans that Soviet communism is both a respectable and a logical way of ensuring world peace. And he has provided some of his own advance billing.

In an introduction written for the Philadelphia Inquirer for serialized excerpts from his one and only book to date, Nikita Khrushchev advises:

". . . society as a whole must strive to find ways not only of postponing war but also of abolishing it forever. This problem cannot be completely solved until mankind has established a society in which . . . all will be equal and all derive equal benefit from the blessings of collective labor. It will be what we call a Communist society. We are convinced that in the long run mankind will build such a social system."

This is put politely. Khrushchev now says he has no intention of imposing the Soviet system upon anybody. This, of course, asks everyone to forget Hungary, Poland and the other satellites, or to believe, as he says, they chose that system of their own free will are are gloriously happy about it.

Khrushchev's book is published under the title "Toward Victory in Peaceful Competition with Capitalism." Actually, it is a collection of formal statements from speeches, interviews, letters and sundry polished pronouncements.

As a refresher course on the Communist mind at work, it's not a bad idea for Americans to try to wade through what the voluble Khrushchev offers. What his "blueprint for the future" proves to be is a parade of cliches and exercises in Red Jargon.

This is a clue to Khrushchev's reasoning. By Communist logic, he stands for peace. Opposing him is opposing peace. Communist propaganda's aim is to put pressure on the West by alternating threats and smiles. Khrushchev himself has had some success in this respect.

And what does Khrushchev think of the American way? For American consumption, he concedes there might be some merit in it. But at home, it's a different story. Just a week ago he offered this critique:

"It is well known that technical progress takes place in capitalist countries also, but it is realized there exclusively in the interest of profit-making of the monopolists, and leads to intensification of the exploitation of the working people."

In other words: Be patient, Americans. Khrushchev's communism is on the way.

Six-year old Vivienne Edwards of Peterborough, Ont., plays with two orphaned baby squirrels found by her brother and a friend. The tiny squirrels are being fed acorns, milk, bacon, biscuits, grapes and chocolate until they are old enough to care for themselves. —CP photo.

All Aboard with G. E. Mortimore

METZ, France—One of the hazards of being an air force father or mother in Europe is that your little boy may bring a live bomb home to play with.

Children of Canada's No. 1 Air Division, rummaging in ditches and old pillboxes, have collected a variety of lethal souvenirs. Generally a grown up finds the things before the moppets begin pulling them to pieces, or throwing rocks at them.

However, one little air force boy had a hand blown off recently by a Second World War mortar bomb that he found in an excavation.

The air force carries on a vigorous campaign to warn children of its officers and airmen against touching suspicious-looking objects. But the message doesn't always sink in.

This region, swept by invading and counter-invading armies since Roman times, is one of the most heavily fortified in France.

On the road from Metz No. 1 Fighter Wing at Marville the thick concrete bastions of the Maginot Line, partly overgrown with grass and trees, stretch across the fields where farmers are gathering hay.

Shattered bunkers

On the height of land at Zweibruecken, over the border in Germany, near the No. 3 Wing of the RCAF, are the shattered bunkers of Germany's Siegfreid Line. Some of the walls are five feet thick in places, with steel rods woven into the concrete. They had to be flooded with water to increase the force of the blast before they would yield to explosives, and even then they did not break up into small pieces, but cracked into enormous blocks and settled back in the same place.

Apart from the danger that their children may be blown up (the chances of it happening are not great), life is reasonably pleasant for Canada's officers and airmen overseas, in their off-duty hours.

Single officers, airmen and airwomen are here for a two-year stretch, married personnel for three years. The government brings families over, rents apartments in married quarters to some of them, and educates Canadian children in special schools.

Dr. Harold L. Campbell, former deputy minister of education in B.C., who is in charge of the education of all Canadian armed forces children in Europe, has his headquarters in Metz. Unfortunately for me, he was away on leave when I called.

The object of the educational program for service children is not to isolate them from the life of the European country in which they live, but to make sure they will be able to fit easily into the schools of any one of the Canadian provinces when they return to their homeland.

Service personnel are free to send their children to French schools if they wish, and some French-speaking parents do.

Too much to learn

Wing Commander Ronald Dodds, staff officer, public relations, told me that he and his wife had thought of sending their 12-year-old daughter to a French school. But they came to realize that she would have to become fluent in another language at the same time as tackling her ordinary school work. That would mean the loss of a whole year. They decided against the plan.

There are two different ways for an air force family to live: in married quarters provided by the service, for which they pay substantial rent, or "on the economy"—in a house or apartment rented from French civilians.

Housing is scarce, and some people find it difficult to rent an apartment of the standard they would expect in Canada.

"I haven't heard of any exploitation by landlords," said Ron Dodds. "I don't know any Canadian who has been charged more than a Frenchman would be, for the same thing."

I also met people who claimed that they had been gouged by greedy landlords. But it would be surprising if a few Frenchmen didn't try to make extra money from servicemen. There are people in every country who do the same.

The average Frenchman's cost of living is much higher than that of the average Canadian in Canada. The Frenchman's salary will buy less goods.

Some North American commodities—at random, canned pineapples, ketchup—are not to be had in France, or can be obtained only at speciality stores. But Canadian servicemen have their own well-stocked grocery stores on the stations. The prices are a fraction above Canadian prices.

I went into the RCAF store at Metz. It contained everything you would find in a North American supermarket, plus something different: bottles of wine of several types, at very low prices: Sample: champagne (genuine, though not of the highest quality, I was told) at $2 a quart.

Anti-litter

From the Victoria Times

In time education may teach people to stop strewing garbage along highways and in public parks but stricter enforcement of anti-litter laws and a few heavy fines might sharpen the learning capacity of the habitual offenders. Our pleasure areas are becoming too crowded now to permit us the luxury of piggish habits.

Let's keep it, eh!

From The Toronto Telegram

This, of course, would be history's biggest giveaway.

Defence Minister Pearkes, who balances Canada's multi-billion-dollar defence budget, has decided that if anyone will take the 1200-mile Canadian section of the Alaska highway off his hands—"They can have it for the taking, anyone who wants to pave it and maintain it."

The exasperation behind such an offer is understandable. This is a high-priced highway. The U.S. government built it for $150,000,000, then handed it over to Canada after the Second World War. Since then, Canada has spent another $132,000,000 on it.

And if that wasn't enough . . . Senator Richard Neuberger, a Democrat from Oregon has caused a few more beads of perspiration on the Canadian brow with the unsolicited suggestion a few months ago that Canada should pay $66,000,000, half the cost of resurfacing the highway.

Looking at the other demands of defence, and the paucity of population in Canada's north at present, Mr. Pearkes could be excused for wondering if Canada can really afford this highway.

Well, it can. It's vital that Canada should keep control of the highway. If necessary, patch it up and charge a toll. But keep the highway.

This highway is part of the development of Canada's north. Sensational finds of oil and gas in the Yukon, reported recently, now bring nearer the realization of Canada's vision of an expanding northern frontier.

Little joy

From the Winnipeg Tribune

The curb on Japanese imports may give comfort to Canadian textile firms but it held little joy for Alberta coal miners or Prairie grain growers who have been trying to get a bigger market in Japan.

Too broad

From The Ottawa Citizen

Although the current employment figure in Canada is a record, it should be taken as a matter of course that in an expanding country the working population should expand.

At mid-July there were still 228,000 persons unemployed and seeking work. This represented 3.5 per cent of the labor force. This unemployed base at the busiest season of the year is far too broad for comfort.

Indecision

From The Red Deer Advocate

There has been too much drifting and indecision at Ottawa. This is a big country in heart as well as in land and resources. All Canadians want their prime minister and their goverment to do the best possible job and they hope that the present signs of weakness and indecision will disappear in the face of a strong and vigorous attack on the problems facing this country today.

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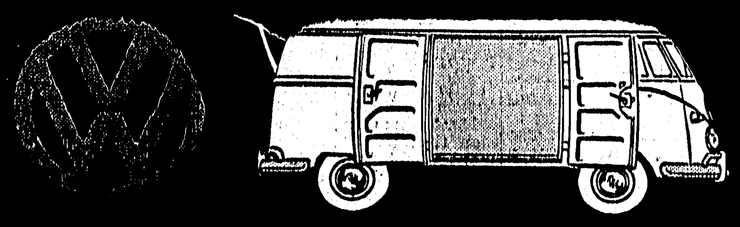

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