

Hungary & Eastern Europe - Sixty Years Ago A Press Review by a Hungarian Refugee

U. S., Hungary Hold Lead in Table Tennis 1955. 04. 16–30.

- U. S., Hungary Hold Lead in Table Tennis
- Nagy Purged in Hungary Red Shakeup
- Soviet's New Tactics
- Bandung Meeting Asked to Assail Red Colonialism
- Molotov and 1815 Pact
- Systematic Terrorism
- Free Europe Committee Uses Psychological Warfare to Attack Sov

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N. 7 Herald Trib. 18 IV 95

U.S., Hungary Hold Lead in Table Tennis

UTRECHT, Netherlands, April 17 (AP). — The United States' men's table tennis team remained undefeated today after the fifth round of play for the Swaythling Cup. But Uncle Sam's girls dropped their second match in five starts to fall farther behind in the competition for the Corbillon Cup.

In wrapping up their third straight victory to stay deadlocked with Hungary for first place in Group 2, the United States men blanked Bulgaria, 5 to 0. The defeat was Bulgaria's first in three matches.

Bern Bukiet, of Chicago, defeated S. Shivatchev, 21—16, 21—9, and M. Karaneshev, 21—3, 21—15. John Somael also turned in two victories, first beating V. Popove, 27—25, 19—21, 21—10, and then downing Shivatchev, 21—10, 21—9. The fifth victory was registered by Richard Miles, of New York, many times National champion. He defeated Karaneshev, 21—10, 21—18.

The United States women first defeated Sweden, 3 to 1, and then lost to Wales by the same score.

Triumphs over Sweden were turned in by Leah Neuberger, of New York, six times United States champion, and Sally Green Prouty, of Chicago. Mrs. Neuberger defeated E. Thorsson, 21—13, 16—21, 21—17, and S. Tegner, 9—21, 21—6, 26—25, with the last game called because of the time limit. Mrs. Neuberger and Miss Prouty teamed for a 18—21, 21—16, 21—19 victory over the Tegner-Thorsson combine in the doubles. Miss Prouty lost her singles match to Miss Tegner, 21—19, 16—21, 9—21.

Against Wales, Pauline Robinson, of New York, turned in the lone victory by defeating B. Gray in three sets.

Nagy Purged In Hungary Red Shakeup

BUDAPEST, Hungary, April 18 (AP).—Hungary's Communist Party made public today its long-expected purge of Premier Imre Nagy. Former Deputy Premier Andras Hegedus was elected to succeed him as head of the government.

The Hungarian parliament elected Mr. Hegedus in a session today shortly after a party announcement said Mr. Nagy had been fired and stripped of all party posts for causing "grave damage to the party, to the people's Democracy and to our social building."

Ouster Confirmed

Just before electing Mr. Hegedus the Parliament confirmed the ouster of Mr. Nagy. Istvan Dobi, president of the Presidential Council, announced he had failed to carry out his functions sufficiently.

Mr. Nagy was not present at the Parliament session.

Joseph Mekis, president of the Hungarian Trade Union Council, was elected deputy premier to succeed Mr. Hegedus.

The new Premier, now 40 was named agriculture minister and one of two first deputy premiers when Mr. Nagy replaced party chief Matyas Rakosi as Premier in 1953. Mr. Nagy was released from the agriculture post last year, but continued a deputy premier.

Aide Disciplined

The brief party announcement also said Mihaly Farkas had been ousted from the party's five-man secretariat for supporting Mr. Nagy's ideas and expelled from the party's Political Committee and Central leadership (the Central Committee).

Mr. Farkas had been defense minister in the previous Rakosi government. He lost that post when Mr. Nagy became premier but continued in his party posts.

Others Elected

The party also announced the election of Istvan Kovacs, secretary of the party committee for Budapest, and Joseph Mekis, a lesser party official, to the political committee, and acting Interior Minister Laszlo Piros to be a deputy member of that committee.

Nagy's formal ouster had been anticipated ever since the party's central committee rebuked him five weeks ago for "right wing



—AP Wirephoto

PREMIER IMRE NAGY
Fired by Communists

deviationism." The 58-year-old leader had espoused the new look emphasis on consumer goods which the Communist countries quickly discarded when Georgi Malenkov was demoted from Russia's premiership.

Times 21 IV 955

Soviet's New Tactics

An Appraisal of Dilemma for U. S. In Moscow's Concession on Austria

By JAMES RESTON

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 20—There is general agreement in Washington that the Soviet change of tactics over Austria is one of the most important diplomatic moves of the post-war period. There is no agreement, however, about what motivated the change.

Some observers here think Moscow is trying to reduce tension in Europe to be ready to deal with the growing crisis in the Formosa Strait.

The majority, however, still believe that the most obvious explanation is the best, that the Russians are betting on the neutralization of Austria to block the rearmament and encourage the neutralization of Germany.

Despite the ratification of the London and Paris agreements approving the arming of West Germany and the entrance of that country into the North Atlantic treaty, a lot of things have to happen before Germany is actually rearmed.

Time Factor Significant

The Bonn Parliament has to approve legislation to raise an officer corps, and a two-thirds vote of that body is required to conscript the twelve German divisions authorized by the Allies.

This is going to take time, probably a lot of time, and the feeling here is that the Russians are gambling that their offer to Austria, followed by a similar offer to create a demilitarized, neutral Germany, will win such support in West Germany that the Parliament will not agree to conscription.

The Soviet Union is taking a long irk in Austria to achieve this objective. Only once since World War II—in Iran in 1946—has Moscow been willing to withdraw its troops from areas it covets. No one, of course, can be sure that the U. S. S. R. will carry out the concessions is suggested to Chancellor Julius Raab of Austria last week, but if it does, the military and political picture in Europe will be changed in a most fundamental way.

For under these proposals the Russians not only agreed to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Austria, including their own, but proposed a solution that, under the peace treaties with Hungary and Rumania, would oblige Moscow to withdraw its troops from Hungary and Rumania as well.

The consequences of this might very well be immense. Hungary would, for the first time since the war, have a common frontier with free Europe. More important, Czechoslovakia would have a much longer frontier with the West.

Austria would agree to remain neutral in the East-West "cold war." The United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union would be obliged to guarantee

the independence and integrity of Austria, and while Vienna would thus become the capital of another neutralist state like Switzerland, the fact remains that the area of freedom in the heart of Europe would be greatly enlarged.

A Gambit to Germany?

Why should the U. S. S. R. make such concessions? The feeling here is that it has done so because it believes Germany might be as eager as Austria to agree to a policy of neutrality in return for the evacuation of all foreign troops, including the Soviet Army, from German soil.

At any rate, the Russians, according to this theory, believe enough West Germans would be sympathetic to such a "solution" to block or postpone the final act of conscripting German manpower. And even the postponement of this act is important to Moscow, for the strongest supporter of German rearmament is Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who is an old man.

The Russians did not mention these things in their talks with Chancellor Raab of Austria. According to official reports of those conversations, the new chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Marshal Nikolai A. Bulganin (who played a surprisingly important part in the negotiations) emphasized to Chancellor Raab that he was not tying a solution of the Austrian problem to a solution of the German problem.

Indeed, Premier Buganin indicated that he believed that Germany would be split for a long time as a result of the decision to arm West Germany. All he wants, Marshal Bulganin emphasized, is an agreement that would give Austria her freedom without giving an advantage to either side in the "cold war."

If that could be achieved by neutralizing and guaranteeing Austria, he said, the Soviet Union would be willing to see all foreign troops, including the Soviet Union's, withdrawn from Austria.

No one here denies that this was at least an offer of a major concession, involving the risk that a free Austria would exert a considerable attraction on both Hungary and Czechoslovakia, but at the same time it was designed to achieve the one objective Moscow wants above all others: the blocking of German rearmament.

This is why official Washington is so cautious about the Austrian deal. It is now confronted by a dilemma. It wants to see Austria freed, and it wants to increase the pressure on Hungary and Czechoslovakia to seek freedom, but it fears the attraction of a free Austria on Germany.

Nevertheless, the Eisenhower

Administration is willing to proceed with negotiations for an Austrian treaty because it does not feel that the United States should seem to be less eager than Russia to increase Austria's independence.

Washington will probably agree to the Austrian Government's proposals in the matter, but it will not be happy. For the belief here is that Moscow has found an exceedingly seductive means of trying to smash the Western policy in Germany.

June 22 IV 955

BANDUNG MEETING ASKED TO ASSAIL RED COLONIALISM

Ceylon Premier Cites Soviet
Domination of Countries in
Central and East Europe

COEXISTENCE IS DOUBTED

Communist Subversion Peril
Stressed by Kotelawala—
Pro-Arab Stand Voted

By TILLMAN DURDIN

Special to The New York Times.

BANDUNG, Indonesia, Friday, April 22—Differences over communism in the Asian-African conference sharpened yesterday. Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister of Ceylon, was responsible for bringing the Communist issues into the conference arena with new prominence.

Sir John caused agitation in the afternoon meeting of the political committee by urging condemnation of Soviet colonialism along with Western colonialism. He said the Soviet Union colonized Central and Eastern European countries from the Baltic states down to Bulgaria and Albania.

His presentation provoked a controversy with Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian Prime Minister, and resulted in an adjournment on the understanding that Chou En-lai, Premier of Communist China, would reply when the committee reassembled.

The Ceylonese leader's attack on Communist colonialism followed his statement, made at a press conference, questioning the sincerity of Communist China's pronouncement that it was prepared to coexist with other countries without interference in their internal affairs.

Subversion in Asia Cited

Sir John pointed to the reality of subversive Communist movements in Asia and Africa. He said "they have not attempted to disguise the fact that their ultimate and constant aim is to weaken and undermine the legally constituted governments of our countries so that at the appropriate time we can be transformed into satellites of Soviet Russia or Communist China."

Sir John's anti-Communist declarations were all the more remarkable in that they came from the leader of one of the sponsors of the twenty-nine-nation conference. Nationalist Asians have looked upon the conference as an instrumentality for promoting friendly relations between Communist China and other Asian and African nations.

The Ceylonese Prime Minister's statements were also further evidence of the rejection by many Asian officials of the conference leadership and views of Mr. Nehru. The Indian Prime Minister is the champion of the idea that friendly coexistence

N. Y. Herald Trib. 22 IV 955

Ceylon Bids Parley at Bandung Assail Communists' Colonialism

Continued From Page 1

and cooperation between Communist China and non-Communist nations is possible. At the conference he has sought to keep sharp controversy over the Communist and other issues of the sessions.

Study on Colonialism Asked

Sir John suggested that a committee be set up to examine how colonialism could be ended. He proposed that an international trusteeship of non-colonial nations be formed to look after newly-independent countries and that the defense of these countries be guaranteed for twenty-five years.

In his statement on coexistence, the Ceylonese leader pointed out that in his country the Communist party had declared openly that in case of war in which Ceylon found herself on one side and the Soviet Union and Red China on the other, the Communists would do everything in their power, including fighting, toward the defeat of Ceylon.

He said if the Communist powers were in earnest about their professions of peaceful coexistence, "one would expect them surely to exert every effort to convince us of their good faith by disbanding the Communist party in Ceylon—and, indeed, in every other country of this region—and directing the activities of the Communists into useful, peaceful and constructive channels."

Plan for Formosa Offered

Sir John said he was all for coexistence "properly conceived," but he wanted his existence to be safeguarded "as much as the other fellow's."

Along with his statement about the snares of coexistence, Sir John presented his ideas for a settlement of the Formosa question. He said he still intended to promote a meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Colombo powers with Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines, Mr. Chou and Prince Wan Wathaiyakon of Thailand to discuss them.

The Ceylonese leader's plan for Formosa calls for a five-year trusteeship by either the United Nations or the Colombo powers over the island to replace its present administration. After five years the Formosans would vote in a plebiscite to determine their future form of government.

The Colombo powers are Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. They got their name because of their meeting early last year at Colombo, capital of Ceylon.

Pledges Requested

The Ceylonese Premier's statements on Soviet colonialism came during a discussion in the political committee of the conference on the problems of dependent peoples. He asked if the Soviet satellite countries of Central and Eastern Europe were not as much colonies as any of the colonial territories in Africa and Asia.

"If we are united in our opposition to colonialism," Sir John



Associated Press

Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister of Ceylon. He accused Soviet Union of colonialism in central and eastern Europe. Sir John spoke at Asian-African conference.

stated, "should it not be our duty openly to declare our opposition to Soviet colonialism as much as to Western imperialism?"

Sir John asked for a declaration by the countries at the conference that each had no designs upon its neighbor and no intention or desire to impose its institutions and way of life upon peoples of a different language, race or religion. He also proposed that all colonial powers be called upon to give autonomy to colonies of the Asian-African region within ten years.

The political committee, as its first item of business, approved unanimously a declaration—delegates said it was not a resolution—of support for the Arab views on the Palestine issue. The committee declared "its support for rights of Arab peoples of Palestine and calls for implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question."

Without serious dissent, the committee also expressed its support for the "right of the peoples of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to self-determination and independence." The declarations asked France to bring about a peaceful settlement of the issue without delay.

Again, in the case of the Indonesian Government's efforts to gain control of West New Guinea from the Netherlands, the committee asserted the justice of this demand. It urged both the Netherlands Government and the United Nations to work for peaceful resolution of the dispute. Indonesia calls the territory concerned West Irian.

Finally, the group expressed its abhorrence of racialism in any form and specifically condemned racial discrimination as practiced by the Government of South Africa against Africans, Indians and Pakistanis under its

policy of apartheid (separation of the races).

Pakistan and India clashed yesterday in a session of the economic committee over the question of atomic energy agencies. India wanted Asian and African producer territories to be given representation on international atomic organizations. Pakistan took the view that this should be left to the United Nations and to the authorities at present responsible.

Arab exiles participated in deliberations of committee today as "advisers" to the regular delegations. Haj Amin el Husseini, the Mufti of Jerusalem and the personification of anti-Zionism for three decades acquired overnight the status of a member of the Yemeni delegation. Attached to the same delegation was Allail el-Fassy, exiled leader of the Moroccan Istiqlal (independence) party. His Tunisian colleague, Saleh ben Youssef of the Neo-Destour party, wore an Iraqi badge.

Wash. Post 23 IV 95

Molotov and 1815 Pact . By Chalmers M. Roberts

Is General East-West Settlement in His Mind?

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov has set off an intriguing line of speculation by harking back to the Congress of Vienna in proposing the Swiss model for Austrian neutrality. Molotov did so in his recent talks in Moscow with Austrian Chancellor Raab.



Roberts

There are at least two ways to read the Molotov reference to the 1815 gathering of the then great powers who worked out the post-Napoleonic territorial settlements. One is that Molotov made the reference only because it was the Congress of Vienna which proclaimed the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland and the inviolability of Swiss soil. The other, and more exciting speculation, is that Molotov is thinking of a general European settlement between East and West.

The United States, Britain and France yesterday proposed an ambassadors' meeting in Vienna to find out exactly what the Russians have in mind for Austria. The Western powers have had no explanation from Moscow. Raab and his associates came back from Russia with only the fuzziest impressions of Molotov's version of Austrian neutrality.

Molotov appears to have called for three things: Signing the State Treaty without change other than the economic concessions he unexpectedly granted Austria; a unilateral declaration of non-alliance by the Austrian Parliament, already agreed to both by Vienna and the Western powers and some sort of Big Four guarantee of this non-alliance or neutrality pledge. The third point is the key. It could be a dangerous precedent for Germany. It could even require the United States Senate to approve a commitment to go to war to defend a

nation which had declared it would not align itself with the West.

The Soviet suggested that the Swiss settlement in 1815 should be the model for neutrality. The Soviet press has subsequently harped on the idea. As a result, Western diplomats have rushed to the archives. The Swiss settlement, in fact, was worked out in three 1815 events: The Congress itself, a declaration by the Swiss Parliament and the subsequent Treaty of Paris. If there is a Soviet joker waiting somewhere in the fine print, it has not yet been unearthed.

WESTERN DIPLOMATS have reasoned that Moscow has offered to pull its troops out of Austria only in the interest of some larger gain. The first reaction was that the gain hoped for was to block West German rearmament despite ratification of the Paris pacts to permit rearmament within the NATO structure. But the price of this, in the end, would have to be a Soviet willingness to move out of East Germany and permit the satellite regime there to collapse.

At least some Western diplomats who best know Russia just don't believe Moscow is going to do that. They figure the chain reaction in the other satellites would be too much to risk.

This brings one to the possibility that Molotov had a general East-West settlement in mind when he talked about the Congress of Vienna. At Berlin last year Molotov trotted out his plan for "European security," actually a proposal to send the Americans home and open the way to Sovietization of the continent. That was too bald to get anywhere. But most European leaders, from Churchill and Adenauer on down, have felt the Russians have a legitimate fear of insecurity which must be met.

Chancellor Adenauer proposed in Washington last

year some sort of non-aggression pact between the Soviet bloc and Western European Union to be set up under the Paris pact. Secretary of State Dulles quickly though privately pointed out to Adenauer that the Administration could do nothing which might be interpreted as accepting the communization of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, not to mention the three Baltic States. Dulles strongly opposes a division of Europe by drawing a line somewhere down the middle. But that has appeal in Western Europe—and now perhaps in Moscow.

THE BIG POWERS at the Congress of Vienna—Russia, Prussia, Austria, France and Britain—haggled long and fiercely. Only Napoleon's 100-day return from Elba which ended at Waterloo brought decision.

But the territorial settlements of 1815 were unnatural ones, in ethnic terms. The nationalism spawned by Napoleon doomed their continuation after the revolutionary period of the 1840's. Versailles after World War I finally brought settlements on ethnic lines which lasted until Hitler and the advance of Soviet communism.

Molotov could not really be proposing a general settlement without abandoning international communism which respects no frontiers. Still, he and his associates in the Kremlin may have decided that the advent of nuclear weapons calls for some sort of accommodation with the West, at least for the time being.

After the Congress of Vienna, noted for its grand balls as well as for its diplomacy, had been negotiating fruitlessly for some time, one of its participants got off the famous bon mot: "The Congress dances, but takes no steps." If Molotov has in mind a mid-twentieth century congress of Vienna, it can be assumed he is prepared for some fancy footwork.

N.Y. Herald Trib. 28 IV 955

Systematic Terrorism

TO the N. Y. Herald Tribune:
Concerning the state treaty with Austria, there is one aspect of that problem which appears to us of major importance, not only for the maintenance of the spirit of resistance against communism behind the Iron Curtain but also for the political and moral position of the Western powers.

It is a most regrettable fact that ten years following the war's end in Europe there still remain in Austria some 30,000 refugees from behind the Iron Curtain whose status and fate have not yet been solved. Should the text of the state treaty with Austria agreed upon at the Berlin conference be signed, these 30,000 refugees and all future escapees throughout Austria would, on the basis of Article 16 of that treaty, be deprived of all aid and subjected to procedures tantamount to forcible repatriation.

Denial of the right of asylum and insistence on the return of all refugees to the Communist-dominated homelands is and has been all the time a tenet of Soviet policy. In June, 1946, at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Molotov refused even to consider the first draft of the Austrian Treaty unless "the forcible repatriation of displaced persons in Austria" was accepted by the West.

During eight years of negotiations concerning the Austrian treaty the Soviets have never given up this demand. As late as March 30, 1955, at a meeting of the ECOSOC in Geneva, the Soviet delegate repeated his demand for "repatriation, if necessary, by force of all refugees from Central and Eastern Europe," and also complained that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is granting "illegal" protection to refugees who really are guilty of "crimes" against their fatherland.

After withdrawal of the troops of occupation, the Austrian government will have to negotiate the completion of the repatriation of all refugees on a bilateral basis with the Soviets. Having all the trump cards in their hands, the horrors of the early post-war years may be expected to be renewed in Austria after ratification of the treaty.

Fundamentally, Soviet policy is based on systematic terrorism. To make that system ef-

fective it must be demonstrated that there is no escape from the Communist stranglehold. Thus, by discouraging desertions from their armed forces and by plunging their dissatisfied populations into hopelessness, the Soviets maintain discipline and build up power for the perpetration of further acts of aggression against the free world.

Fully aware of the dangers resulting from the state treaty with Austria, we ask for a speedy resettlement of all the displaced persons still in Austria. The three Western powers are also entitled to demand from the Soviets additional guarantees against abduction, forcible repatriation, brainwashing and other abuses against fundamental human rights generally practiced by the Communists against their nationals who refuse to return to their homeland.

The fighting in Korea was prolonged by fourteen months at the cost of 130,000 additional casualties to the United Nations and South Koreans only because of the demand for forcible repatriation. We cannot believe that even if camouflaged by hypocritical verbiage this principle should now be accepted by the West.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CAP- TIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS:

HASAN DOSTI, Albania
DR. GEORGE M. DIMITROV,
Bulgaria
DR. STEFAN OSUSKY,
Czechoslovakia
LEONHARD VAHTER, Estonia
DR. TIBOR ECKHARDT,
Hungary
DR. VILIS MASENS, Latvia
VACLOVAS SIDZIKAUSKAS,
Lithuania
KAROL POPIEL,
STEFAN KORBONSKI,
Poland
CONSTANTIN VISOIANU,
Romania
New York, April 26, 1955.

June 30 IV 955 20edal

CHOU ASKS THAIS TO VISIT YUNNAN

Invitation Viewed as Effort
to Disprove Report of Anti-
Bangkok Activities

Special to The New York Times.

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 29—Prince Wan Waithayakon said today a Thai delegation had been invited to tour Yunnan province in China. It is there that 20,000 guerrillas allegedly are being trained for action against Thailand.

Thailand's Foreign Minister said on his return from the Asian-African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, that the invitation had been extended to him personally by Chou En-lai, Chinese Communist Premier.

Prince Wan said Mr. Chou had first invited him to China, but he had been unable to accept because he must attend several international conferences. Then, Prince Wan said, came Mr. Chou's suggestion that Thailand send the delegation.

The Foreign Minister said he would pass on the invitation to the Thai Government with his recommendation. But he declined to answer questions today on what his recommendation might be.

Nationalist Ties No Bar

However, Prince Wan noted that the fact that Thailand still recognized the Nationalist Government of Chiang Kai-shek would not bar a Thai delegation from visiting the Peiping-controlled mainland.

He said Mr. Chou had invited the delegation to tour Yunnan in an effort to disprove Government allegations here of anti-Thai activities. Such activities are said to be centered in an "autonomous Thai state" created by the Peiping Government in southern Yunnan of persons of Thai racial stock. Their leaders have been reported to be a former Thai Premier, Pridi Phanomyong, who fled Thailand in 1947. However, Prince Wan said Mr. Chou had told him at Bandung that Mr. Pridi was a political refugee in Peiping and was not in Yunnan.

Orders to Delegation Cited

The Foreign Minister noted he had gone to Bandung as head of the Thai delegation with instructions to speak in defense of the Southeast Asian collective defense treaty if Mr. Chou attacked it. To his surprise, Prince Wan said, the Chinese Communist leader barely referred to it.

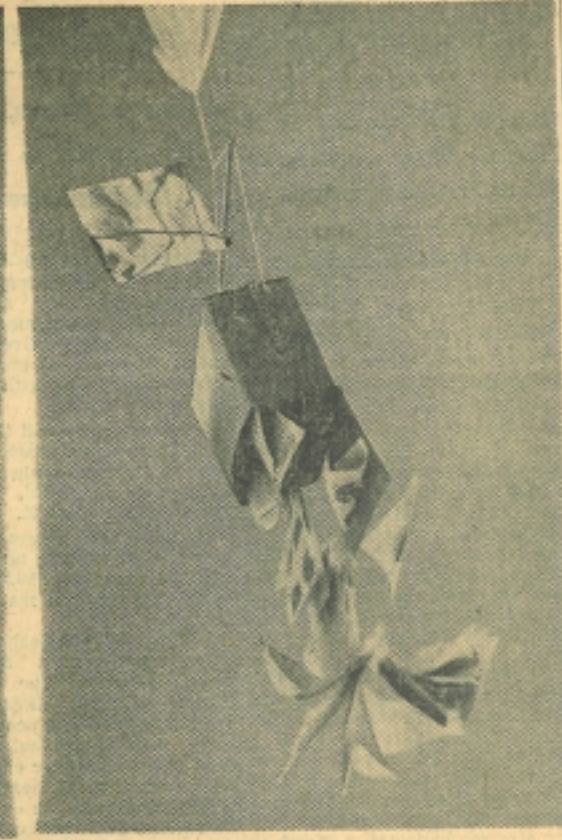
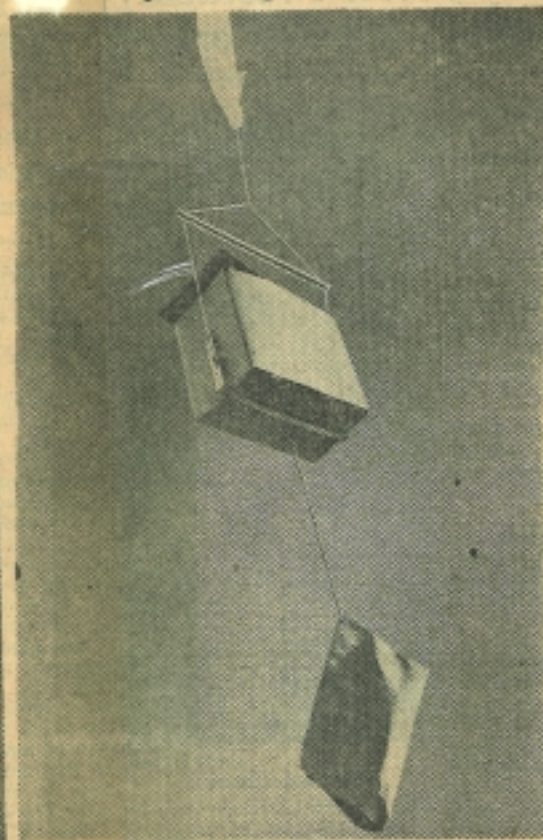
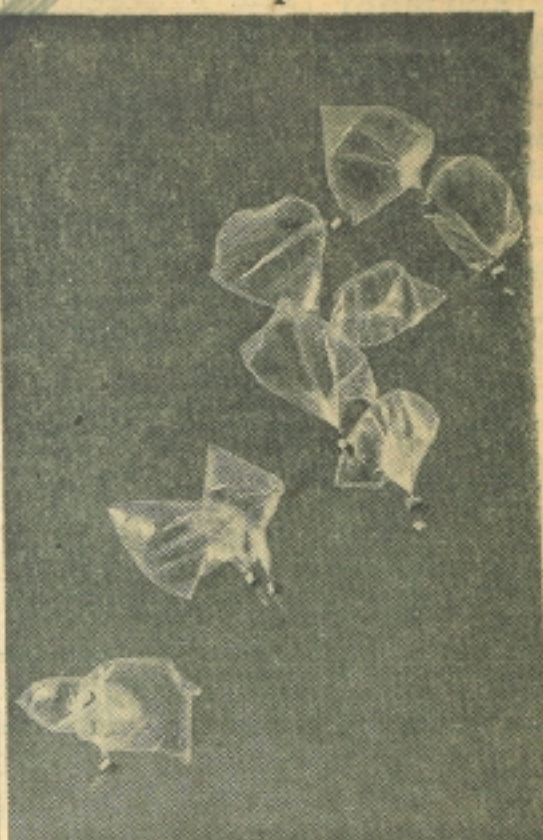
The treaty links Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States in measures to deter Communist aggression, infiltration and subversion.

Prince Wan said the Thai delegation had succeeded in observing its other instruction at Bandung—to get the conference to base its policy on the United Na-

Free Europe Committee

Psychological Warfare to Attack Soviet Satellite

Uses



For the past year the Free Europe Press division of the Free Europe Committee has used a balloon operation to spread anti-Communist literature through Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. This sequence shows how

balloon campaign is handled. Large plastic balloons, left, are released. Suspended from each is a box of leaflets, center, held shut by weight of dry ice in bag. When ice evaporates box capsizes, right, scattering leaflets.



Information on Communist-dominated countries is gathered in refugee camps in Germany and Austria by trained interviewers of Radio Free Europe, sister organization of Free Europe Press. Material, usually transcribed on tape, is evaluated for R. F. E. broadcasts.



Radio Free Europe's Munich headquarters handles numerous letters from listeners in Communist countries. Letters to "cover" addresses in Western Europe are sent to R. F. E.

Special to The New York Times.

FRONAU, Germany, April 28—About 130,000,000 anti-Communist leaflets and newspapers have been sent by balloon into Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland in a psychological warfare operation whose first anniversary is being marked this week.

It was on April 29, 1954, that the first balloon soared into the sky from West Ger-

many aimed and timed to arrive to drop its leaflet cargo in Prague at the height of May 1 celebration. Since then 80,000,000 leaflets and newspapers have been sent into Czechoslovakia, almost 50,000,000 into Hungary and 500,000 into Poland.

With this massive balloon campaign, its sponsors, the Free Europe Committee, a private group with headquarters in New York City, have com-

bined "saturation broadcasts" on a twenty-four-hour round-the-clock basis on many channels over Radio Free Europe.

In this pleasant little valley nestling among the Bavarian Alps the preparation of leaflet-carrying balloons has been put on an assembly line basis. Up to 500 balloons can be released in an hour. Each balloon carries 1,200 to 1,500 leaflets, or smaller numbers of bulkier newspapers.

This station at Fronau, where balloons are aimed mainly at Hungary, is one of three such sites, the other being further north in West Germany, at Passau and Hof.

In a medium-sized prefabricated building of two floors, women on the upper floor assemble boxes no larger than an average woman's handbag. The boxes slide down an incline where they are stuffed

with newspapers. A metal bar is attached to each box and on this bar, under the leaflet box, is placed a small quantity—less than a pound—of dry ice.

Meanwhile, on the side of the first floor, the plastic balloons are inflated with hydrogen gas until they are eight feet high. The leaflet box and dry ice are attached and the balloons released when meteorological conditions are favorable.