



pointed out that a damage claim has been brought by a man claiming sudden and dramatic loss of hearing nervous system resulting from fall-out of the same Nevada tests which has been scheduled for trial in Los Angeles in October. It was noted also that the publisher of a book will be published giving the medical studies and photographs of the Marshall Islands and were also scheduled to be published from the Pacific Province of the tests.

b. In the light of the foregoing, the majority of the working group felt that it would not be appropriate for the U.S. to embark upon the type of campaign proposed by the U.S. and the U.S. These considerations were felt to outweigh those raised by the U.S. representative who felt that the U.S. should continue to draw attention on the secrecy-safety issue, which is one of our weak points on which the Soviets have shown themselves vulnerable. He expressed concern that if we do not do this, the Soviets will shift their attention to the "stop-tests" question, which from the propaganda viewpoint, they are strong and we are weak. This would simply be a duplication of the time-tested strategy of leading propaganda to divert attention from a question which we are strong in and to give us an effective answer.

3. Basis for U.S. Reporting Program

It was agreed that the recent announcement of three Soviet shots in eight days had been advantageous to the United States and that the best policy to be followed would be a conservative one of simple repetition that "Soviet Test Nuclear Weapon", and agreed in the announcement of Soviet shots when such shots were of some significance. It was recognized that there is danger in continuously repeating announcements of Soviet shots lest the diversion of peoples of the world to testing is provoked and thereby stimulated. It was agreed that the United States should systematically report each Soviet shot but should not selectively report.

4. The working group agreed that regular reporting is necessary, that its position with regard to the announced official position of the Soviets on the weapons testing program should be reported along the following lines:

a. Continued Soviet failure to halt testing and to disclose the same has given the U.S. a wide range of hard to counter propaganda and the U.S. is unable to adopt a program of definitely announced "stop-tests" in the face of a potential propaganda campaign which could be conducted in general.

b. The U.S. representative emphasized on safety and non-secrecy has been averted by the U.S. The majority of the working group questioned the advisability of adopting the U.S. line of the safety of the tests and the U.S. public reports, especially particularly in view of the possibility of unfavorable publicity arising out of U.S. court actions which damages a person's property and property losses arising from the Marshall tests.



5. Other Business

Pakistan newspaper reporter's request for publicity information of Soviet Testing Grounds - After discussing the working paper received from it would be useful for USIA to furnish the Pakistani newspaper reporter materials on an unattributable basis which would not reveal the location of the Soviet testing grounds. It was noted that Japanese and U.S. newspaper comment could be brought to the attention of the Pakistan reporter. It was further agreed that it will be requested for the U.S. to expedite the supply of specific information and equipment to neutral and friendly nations.

/s/ Memorandum
D.B. [unclear]

Attachment

- Summary of Overseas Activities
- U.S. Announcements of Soviet Tests

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Overseas Reaction to White House-Strauss Release on Soviet
Nuclear Tests

Preliminary Report

USIA queried 20 overseas posts by telegram on press reaction; most of these posts are in the Middle East and Europe, areas nearest the Soviet test sites in Siberia and the Barents Sea. While not all replies are in (New Delhi and Tokyo are among the important posts which have not yet replied), it is clear that response has been much greater than in past AEC announcements of Soviet tests.

News play has been very prominent -- front page coverage almost everywhere; Editorial reaction has been mostly favorable, but not extensive as yet.

SAMPLE REACTIONS:

London - All papers carry prominently, most on front page under headlines such as "Ike Reveals Russian H-Test area" (Chronicle) and "Russia Sets Off New H-Test" (Herald).

Paris - "Moderate" play. Several papers used Agence France Presse despatch interpreting Eisenhower announcement as "Start of new and important American counter-offensive against active Soviet propaganda in favor of cessation of nuclear tests."

Rome - Very wide coverage. Editorial interpretation similar to Paris -- that the U.S. move is an important counter-propaganda stroke; some papers also say that Ike's statement had domestic significance, as a slap at Stevenson for recommending tests be stopped.

Karachi - Leading dailies carry on front page. Headlines feature proximity to Pakistan of Soviet Siberian test site. No editorials.

Tehran - Strauss statement extensively front-paged in leading papers; No editorials.

Rangoon - A strong editorial in the independent Rangoon Iravadi contrasts US openness and Soviet secrecy on tests, and condemns USSR for supporting the USSR.

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New Delhi - It is notable that when, limited September 1, in answer to a question in Parliament, Prime Minister's statement, that fallout had "suddenly and markedly" increased over India and that this was "presumably" due to the Soviet tests in Siberia. This is the first time Soviet tests have attracted such publicity in India. The item appearing in the New York Times, September 4, is particularly played by USIS media, especially to the Middle East.

Soviet Reaction - The two White House statements August 29 and August 31, obviously forced the Russians into the announcement they finally made on August 31: two tests had been made, and others were "pending". Their statement was defensive in tone. Soviet tests are not dangerous because detonated at high altitudes, and because "maximum fallout" is used.

The Russian statement gave no further details and no precautions. did not mention the test sites and did not say whether the present series would continue.

Aside from repeating old propaganda on Soviet support for bearing nuclear weapons etc., the current line in Soviet foreign statements reflects one new note: inspection to control nuclear tests is not necessary, because tests can be detectable by instruments. This has not yet become a major Soviet theme.



Reaction to Announcement of Nuclear Explosions in USSR

FBI's radio coverage of the current Soviet nuclear test centers on Moscow and Tokyo comment. Moscow has, in the last three days, excused the tests on the basis of military necessity generated by continued US and UK tests and manufacture of nuclear weapons. The Soviet commentators emphasized that nuclear tests can be stopped without formal agreement because of the technical impossibility of hiding such tests. Moscow also made a point of calling attention to recent remarks by Adlai Stevenson alleging that Mr. Stevenson said "American business circles are opposed to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes because the market for atomic and hydrogen weapons is really a very large profit."

The Tokyo commentary criticized the USSR for running unannounced tests and noted an increase in the radioactivity of rain "which might be caused by the Soviet tests." The USSR rejected the proposed visit to Moscow of the Japanese Atomic Energy Inspection Team composed of Socialist Party Diet members. Although it is willing to welcome the visit of the Socialist Party Chairman to the lower house committee on Scientific Research who is slated to go to Moscow about 20 September, it does not see an atomic energy exchange program with the USSR.

CIA reports no reaction thus far from Communist Chinese propaganda to the Soviet atomic tests. The Communist Chinese population seems to be particularly vulnerable to propaganda that it is being unnecessarily exposed to atomic fallout from the Soviet tests, being outside of their origin than Japan where incidence of the ion has already been noted.