

Need of Warning System Stressed by Flying Saucers

By JOSEPH AND STEWART ALSOP

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Washington—The flying saucers have served at least to pound one lesson home. That is that the United States has developed no effective warning system against surprise attack in this age of the new and terrible weapons.

For if such a system had been in existence, the military authorities could instantly have ended speculation. They could have given those assurances which an effective warning system would instantly provide: "We know all that passes through the American air. You saw sunlight on the wings of high-flying aircraft—or you saw nothing—or you saw a meteor in the night sky."

No such assurances were forthcoming. We do not have an effective warning system. We are not prepared for the worst.

Adequate defensive preparation for an all-too-possible worst will mean, in the opinions of those charged with planning for national security in this area of the atom bomb and the guided missile, two things.

First, it will mean a radar umbrella extending over the whole Continental United States, to give instant warning of any object which passed through the air over America. The incidental benefits of such an umbrella will be considerable; for example, it will undoubtedly serve to decrease air accidents. But its real purpose will be to flash in a moment to all defense headquarters news of the direction and weight of any enemy attack.

Such a system will be expensive. But the second prerequisite of an effective warning system will be more so. For advance warning bases, pushed out beyond the borders of the country, will also be necessary, to provide those extra minutes or seconds for the launching of the American defensive counter-attack. To meet this dire necessity, very little has been done.

The chain of joint American-Canadian warning stations and air bases projected along the Arctic frontier is still in the dream stage. One such base, at Churchill, on Hudson's Bay, does exist, for preliminary testing purposes. But its value even as a test base is doubtful.

For this base is the northern terminus of a Canadian railroad, whereas the Arctic bases, on the other hand, must of necessity be utterly isolated by endless miles of Arctic waste. They must be so planned that the technicians who man them will be able to support life in sub-zero isolation for long periods at a time, and so that these men can be supplied not only with the means of life, but with the necessary equipment, when and where needed.

Moreover, such bases, each in itself a major project, must be spaced at 200-mile intervals across the Arctic frontier. For the outer limit of radar

range is 100 miles, and any gap might render the whole system valueless. Present estimates indicate that such an advance warning will require an initial investment of at least a billion and a quarter dollars.

Yet unless the nightmare of surprise attack conjured up by the flying saucer scare is to become hard reality, or unless a really secure world settlement is unexpectedly achieved, the money must be spent.

The reason is simple. Very long-range supersonic aircraft and guided missiles have yet to be built, either by ourselves, by the Russians, or by anyone else. Yet such weapons are universally acknowledged to be possible, and therefore, unless there is a world settlement, certain to be built within a few years.

Moreover, intelligence reports indicate clearly that the Soviets are making an all-out attack, not only on the atomic problem, but on the whole vast mysterious area of the guided missile. In this total effort, the Soviets are being aided by no less than 7,000 hireling German scientists.

Indeed, under Soviet supervision, the German scientists continued to manufacture the V-2's, the first successful supersonic missiles, in the eastern zone of Germany for some time after the war. One achievement of this continued experimentation was the A-9 rocket, designed first at Peenemunde during the furor in Sweden some months ago.

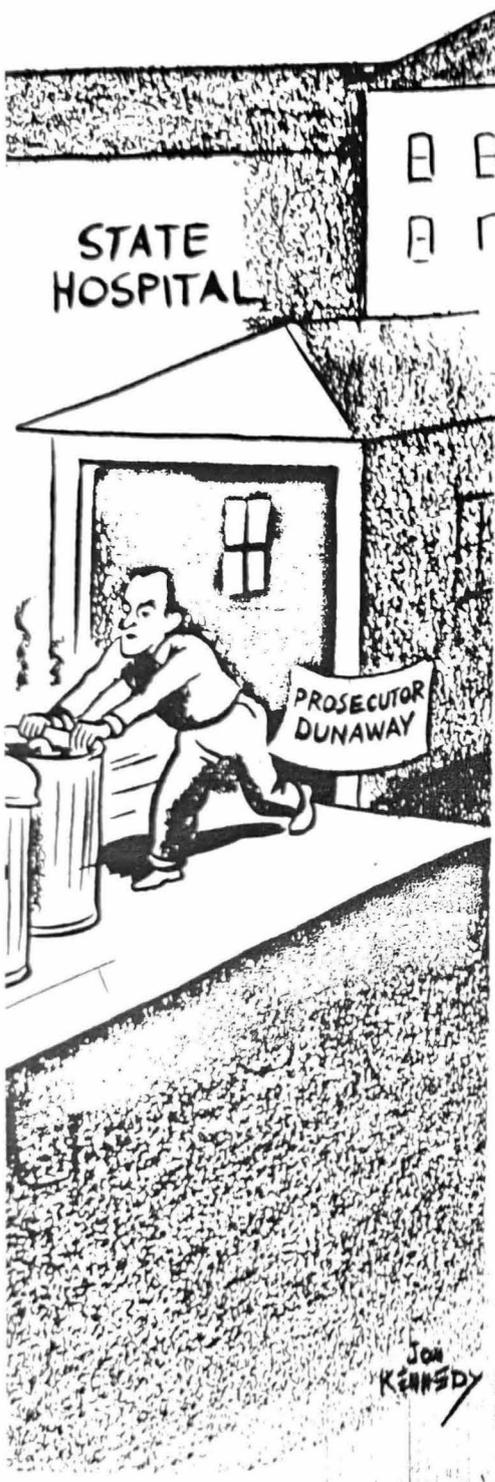
The chief characteristic of the A-9 rocket is that it is equipped, not with fins, like the V-2, but with wings. Thus, whereas the V-2 descended almost straight down, at enormous speed, the A-9's wings ease it into a long glide when it reaches the denser atmosphere near the earth.

Thus the range is extended by more than 300 miles. Moreover, slowed by its wings, it becomes fleetingly visible at the correct angle of vision.

The rockets were timed to disintegrate in the air before contact, but small parts of the weapon were discovered on the Swedish ground. And it is established beyond doubt that this achievement of the German-Soviet collaboration was responsible for the Swedish mystery.

The A-9 is one measure of Soviet success in their all-out effort. Yet not only has lack of funds prevented even the first steps toward an adequate American defensive warning system from being taken, but the American guided missiles program, which would provide the necessary counter-attack, is also limping.

Plans for a great supersonic wind tunnel, the real essential for the program, are still on the drawing board. And the tunnel, if it is ever to be built, will cost upwards of two billion dollars, this when the Congress is intent on tax cuts and economy. Yet surely it is increasingly clear that in the world of today there are things worse than heavy taxes.



Readers' Views

Be Friendly to All

Editor of the Democrat: If I should have three neighbors named Smith, Brown and Johnson, and I should say to Smith and Brown—I have some money to loan you on the terms that you must not be a friend to Johnson—these neighbors would be apt to ask, "Why can't we be friendly to all of our neighbors?" This idea that you cannot be a friend to one neighbor without being an enemy to another is the exact idea of the Truman doctrine.

Many times in the past few months our State Department has flashed

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and unhappy one. The mere fact that a Communist government be in control of a country is necessarily mean that it is for the population as a whole. The opponents of the present are, for the time being, afraid to protest or are unable to give a useful opposition.

Reasons For Bloc.

There are several reasons for the existence of this bloc. One was to prevent Communism. Another was to ease the political and economic situation of the Soviet Union. A third and very important one, was to extend its sphere of influence and to provide for military security.

The paper the bloc is a formidable barrier at first glance would seem to fill all the purposes for which it was built. However, when we look at it is made up of unwilling participants we see that it provides a very unstable barrier between Russia and the Western democracies. The bloc is so much so much so because it cuts across the lines of Europe which includes the nations that long have been famous for their love of liberty and for their defense of freedom. Among these are sturdy fighting folk like the Poles, the Serbs, the Czechs, the Slovaks and the Finns. It is any doubt that Russia will sit on the lid of this melting pot. She herself, better than any other, must realize this because of the populations in her bloc to her own Slavic race, of those who so often have revolted at oppression.

Thinks Farley Revelations Are Justified

By PAUL MALLON.

Washington — A columnist has dusted off Jim Farley for his memoirs in a fast way. The columnist speaks of the original Roosevelt manager with round, even words of justice and objectivity, but, in the end completely removes the Farley character.

He says Lincoln's son held the Liberator's secrets for 82 years. But first, son Elliott wrote a book about Roosevelt, and now comes Mr. Farley with a book which "goes even further" in relating intimate conversations after only two years.

"This is very sad," says the columnist. "I gravely fear the contrast in reticence does not reflect any too well on the state of political morality in our time."

With literary deftness, the columnist divests Farley of the character by which everyone knew him—"genial, able, shrewd politician"—and presents him as a character out of the awful Republican Chicago Tribune because a Tribune reporter ghosted the memoirs.

This is all mixed up. Farley is not Roosevelt's son. Elliott is. But Elliott's book is old and not new under discussion, Elliott's was glibly insulting to many officials like Churchill, was not written by anyone claiming an official position to permit him to write officially, and concerned everything.

Farley is telling what he—himself mostly—did and said in his own business and official job as political manager, and what others did and said to him. Elliott wrote his to make money; Farley to clear his name. Elliott's was an expose without real knowledge or authority; Jim's an official memoir of a job.

Further, neither are dealing with official state secrets of a president from his personal papers. Roosevelt's private papers are still in his secret file, and not even a congressional committee could get into them.

Comparison with Lincoln's family papers is illogically besmirching. Lincoln officials wrote fully about him promptly. Library basements are full of (Nickolai and Hay (Lincoln's own secretaries), Grant's memoirs, and many others.

The columnist does not ask if the Farley account is true. He just suggests Farley lacks morality to a greater extent than Elliott (political morality, that is), because Farley tells it now instead of waiting 82 years as Todd Lincoln did with something else.

Farley could justly be subjected to exposure of his possible criticisms in the welfare and interest of the nation. The columnist's account is so dubious, my opinion is that he is not waiting 82 years to tell the truth (the columnist did not even admit this but only said "I'm saying it," that Farley stabbed Roosevelt in the back. There was no mystery and no stabbing to anyone who was there at the time. What happened was quite simple, namely this:

Basis of World Nightmare Reflected by Flying Discs

By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP.

Washington—The great flying disc scare is a curious commentary on our times.

Even until 10 years ago, the ancient nightmares—dragons, sea serpents and their relatives—served very well. But now instead of cozy old-fashioned Loch Ness monsters, the minds of men are haunted by the man-made horrors of the age of absolute weapons.

The trouble is that the man-made horrors are quite real, quite imminent possibilities. And so the scare of the flying discs raises a perfectly serious question. If there is to be no peace, what warning shall we have that our enemies are preparing war?

Most people assume that this question takes the rather simple form: "How shall we know when the Soviets have an atomic bomb?"

Oddly enough, there is a way of learning of the explosion of an atomic bomb, even in the distant fastnesses of Siberia. It has already been tested, with our own bombs at Alamogordo and Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini.

As everyone knows, the explosion of an atomic bomb releases a gigantic cloud of radio-active particles, which mushrooms upward into the stratosphere. Here in the calmer upper air, the radio-active cloud remains for some time, until it is generally dissipated or precipitated.

Before precipitation can occur, however, the cloud actually circles the earth, like the dust clouds from the volcanic explosion of Krakatoa. And it can thus provide the clue to the explosion of an atomic bomb anywhere on the earth's surface.

The presence of the radio-active cloud in the upper air is revealed by the newly familiar Geiger counter, which measures radio-activity.

The heavy hand of the security officers has silenced the government scientists who no doubt traced the course of the Alamogordo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini bomb clouds. But there are also amateur physicists who have their own Geiger counters to keep check on the strength of the cosmic radiation from inter-galactic space, just as farmers used to maintain measured rain gauges in their backyards for the enlightenment of the weather bureau. Their work has proved the effectiveness of this odd technique.

For example, on July 16, 1945, shortly after the Alamogordo explosion, Lieutenant Commander A. R. Coven, U. S. N. R., noticed an increase in the normal rate of his Geiger counter at Annapolis, Md. The increase continued until July 18, about sixty hours after E-Minute at Alamogordo, when it had almost doubled. The next day it returned to normal.

Again in July, 1946, a couple of days after the first Bikini explosion,

G. Herzog noticed a sharp rise in the rate of the large Geiger counter on the second floor of his house in Houston, Tex. By the following day, the count had almost doubled, to return to normal by evening of the next day.

Both these occurrences have been reported in letters to "The Physical Review," together with one or two others of the same sort, and negative results from amateurs in other areas over which the clouds did not pass.

Expert, although unofficial, opinion gives these remarkable facts a simple meaning. A really adequate net of watching stations, designed to detect the presence of a radio-active cloud in any latitude, will announce the explosion of an atomic bomb anywhere on earth. As usual, since the net must be extensive, its maintenance is likely to be expensive.

But this is by no means the end of the story. Nothing, in the first place, will prevent a potential enemy from accumulating great stores of fissionable material and great numbers of bombs before putting his bomb design to the final test of detonation—and it is only the explosion which makes the cloud.

Thus the detection of an unexplained radio-active cloud in the upper air, if and when it comes, is entirely likely to be a sign that the worst is immediately at hand. Indeed, in this age of lightning attack, the worst might already have begun to occur, for the maximum speed of the clouds on their earth-encircling journey seems to be a trifling 60 miles per hour.

Against the slight reassurance in short, must be balanced new reasons for disquiet. Diplomatic reports from Europe describe the extraordinary frankness of Soviet diplomats seeking to dissuade nations on the fence from joining the Paris conference on Secretary Marshall's plan for European reconstruction. They have warned, in effect, that in 10 years the Soviet Union will have all the weapons of total destruction now possessed by this country, and that, when this happy time arrives, non-co-operators must expect to suffer.

Nor is this testimony unsupported by other facts. The Soviet recruiting drive for German and other European physicists and engineers has been without parallel, and Soviet orders now overload the Swiss, Swedish and other European factories which can produce the complex apparatus needed for such plants as Hanford and Oak Ridge.

Here, in the evidence of an armament race to produce weapons of total destruction, is the raw material of a world nightmare, which is merely reflected in the scare of the flying discs. What is being done to exercise or minimize the nightmare is still another vital question.

Making Most of Marriage

By DOROTHY DIX.

A restaurant in a small Connecticut town bears this intriguing legend on its front: "If your wife cannot cook, eat

expected too much of marriage, too much of life, too much of each other. So we have the philandering hus-

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