

News In Brief

Eastern Bloc Production Up

GENEVA, Friday (A.A.P.-Reuter).—Russia and Eastern Europe stepped up domestic production by six to nine per cent. last year, according to a United Nations economic survey published yesterday

Gross arms production reached record levels in the Soviet Union, Poland and Eastern Germany, and industrial output continued to grow rapidly, said the survey, published by the Economic Commission for Europe.

U.K.-France Agree On Trade Pact

PARIS, Friday (A.A.P.). — Britain and France had reached agreement on a new trade pact for 1959, French sources announced yesterday. No details were disclosed, but the sources said the agreement should permit an appreciable development of trade between the two nations.

The talks have been going on since January, when it became clear that the British backed free trade area plan had failed. The bi-lateral negotiations were launched in an effort to reduce any discrimination suffered by Britain because of the opening of the six-nation European Common market.

Believes In Flying Saucers

VIENNA, Friday (A.A.P.).—Professor Hermann Oberth, who helped design the wartime V-2 rocket, said yesterday that he believed it was easily possible that unidentified flying objects had been launched by human beings from another planet, British United Press reported.

"Some 30,000 eyewitnesses have seen the flying saucers," he told reporters. "Why should it not be possible that human beings from another planet have advanced further in science than we have on earth?"

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Polar "Buffer" Zones Proposal

LONDON, Friday (A.A.P.-Reuter).—Earl Attlee has proposed that Australia should hand over her territorial and mineral claims in the Antarctic to the United Nations and that Canada should do the same with its Arctic claims to create polar "buffer" zones.

The former British Labour Prime Minister also proposed that an international force should police his suggested "buffer" zones, The News Chronicle reported to-day. It said the suggestions were made in a Canadian magazine.

Partial Amnesty In Hungary

BUDAPEST, Friday (A.A.P.-Reuter). — Hungary has announced a partial amnesty covering the period of the 1956 rising and suspended a six-year sentence on Mr. Zoltan Tildy, Minister for State in the ill-fated Imre Nagy Government.

An official communique said the sentence on Mr. Tildy, Hungary's first post-war president, was suspended because he showed "repentance" and because of his age. The new amnesty is limited to people who committed crimes before May 1, 1957, and who were sentenced to not more than two years imprisonment.

No Compromise With Indies Rebels

DJAKARTA, Friday (A.A.P.-Reuter).—No compromise was possible between the army and rebel groups, Lieutenant-General Nasution, the Indonesian Army Chief of Staff said yesterday.

General Nasution was speaking to local government leaders in North Sumatra. He claimed captured rebel documents showed that "a foreign side" had been invited to send military forces to aid the rebels.

