

# U.S. Cool To Russian Test Offer

GENEVA (Reuters) — The United States has reacted coolly to a Soviet proposal that both countries adopt a neutral plan for a voluntary halt to underground nuclear tests.

The plan, first advanced at the 17-country disarmament conference last year and raised again by Egypt last month, calls for a ban on underground tests above a certain magnitude and a voluntary moratorium on blasts of lesser strength.

Soviet delegate Semyon Tsarapkin told Tuesday's session of the conference Russia is ready to agree to the proposal without delay.

However, U.S. delegate William C. Foster reaffirmed American opposition to any unverified ban on underground tests. Half-way measures, he said, might create suspicions and fail to develop the proper attitude toward seeking a ban on all tests.

**VIEWED AS REJECTION**

Tsarapkin told correspondents later that Foster's reaction was "purely negative." He said he considers the U.S. delegate had rejected the Soviet suggestion.

Underground tests are not covered by the 1963 Moscow treaty which bans blasts in the atmosphere, space and under water.

Efforts to extend the treaty to underground tests have foundered over East-West differences on the need for international on-site inspections.

The West maintains that a limited annual number of such inspections are necessary to police a ban, but the Soviet Union says national detection systems are sufficient.

The proposals endorsed by Tsarapkin Tuesday advocates extending the partial test ban to cover underground tests above a seismic magnitude of 4.75—a reading on an instrument indicating the intensity of an explosion.

A U.S. spokesman said the idea of an unlimited moratorium on underground tests below a certain threshold is an old Soviet proposal which the Russians first raised in 1961.

**Denison Mines Sign Uranium Deal With Gov't**

TORONTO (CP) — Denison Mines Ltd. said Tuesday it has signed a five-year agreement to sell the Canadian government a total of 15,000,000 pounds of uranium under a new stockpiling program for the radioactive mineral.

Price to be paid Denison is \$4.50 a pound.

The program was started to try to maintain employment at some Elliot Lake, Ont., uranium mines where Denison is a major producer.

Denison President Stephen Roman said in a statement he still is confident sales to foreign markets will replace stockpiling deliveries "in the not too distant future."

Denison has been negotiating a private deal with France for more than two years, involving 100,000,000 pounds at prices ranging up from about \$7 a pound.

That deal ran into a snag when the French and Canadian governments could not agree on guarantees that the uranium would be used for peaceful purposes. Negotiations on the guarantees are to resume this fall.

**Railroader Remanded**

BELLEVILLE, Ont. (CP)—A Belleville railroader, due soon for pensioning-off after 36 years service, pleaded guilty Tuesday to pilfering from CNR stores since 1962.

Albert Gilson Hucker was remanded to Sept. 17 after Magistrate T. Y. Willis was told a total of 1,033 items were recovered from the railroader's residence where they had been stored.

CNR special agent Joseph Howard said the goods—including such items as blankets, sheets, batteries and soap—had been taken from the Belleville roundhouse stores where Mr. Hucker was issuer. Total cost of the items to the railroad was \$645 — although retail store prices would have been higher, the agent said.

The railroader had been with the CNR since 1929 and has never been in trouble before. He was due for pension Sept. 13.

**APPROACH CHINESE**

TORONTO (CP) — China is among six countries being approached by Canadian National Exhibition officials to build exhibits at the annual show, CNE officials said Friday, William Mallatrat, manager of the exhibits space department, said Mexico, Denmark, Puerto Rico, Italy and France also have been approached.

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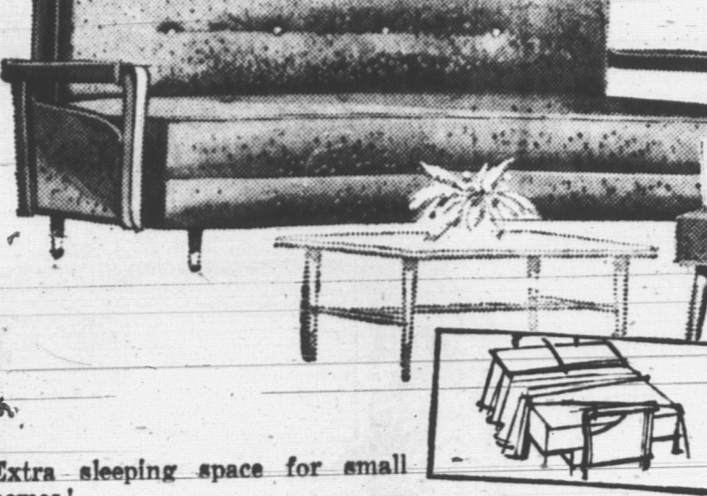
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