

Coordinator for Psychological Intelligence
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TO: P - Mr. Erasmus Kloman
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FROM: OIR/CPI - F. Bowen Evans
SUBJECT: Foreign Press Reactions to the AEC Announcement on
Recent Eniwetok Tests.

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D. Little

Foreign press reactions to the announcement of the Atom Energy Commission and the resulting "hydrogen bomb" stories in the American press have been scattered. Following is a digest of the fragmentary information presently available here:

I. COMMUNIST COMMENTS

A. USSR

The Soviet press made its first reference to the hydrogen bomb in a Pravda article on November 20. On the same day, the article was put on the wires of the Soviet Home News Service. The mention came, almost unobstrusively, as one brief paragraph in the International Review column written by Korionov.

Korionov's article was headed "The Aggressors are Resorting to Blackmail." Its central theme was that while the Soviets sincerely trying for a peaceful solution of "the aggressive war unleashed by the Government of the US in Korea," the US talks peace but indulges in sabre-rattling, whips up war hysteria, blackmails by threatening to use atomic and hydrogen bombs. One paragraph specifically alluding to the hydrogen bomb was as follows:

"The hullabaloo recently raised by the American press is revealing in this respect: It arose around the allegation to the effect that the arsenal of the American military was enriched by a new type of bomb -- a super bomb. It is clear that the so-called hydrogen bomb is meant. Those who inspire such reports seem to hope that the hydrogen blackmail will be more successful than the atomic one."

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The article further states that "all this blackmail... has a dual aim," to "intimidate the heroic Korean people and the Chinese volunteers" and "to paralyze the growing internal forces of the US which resist the plans for the protracted and extension of the aggression in Korea."

B. FRANCE

Humanite, the French Communist paper, picked up the same theme. An editorial by Moreau cited the H-bomb as further evidence of the American policy of "solutions of strength by terror" and asserted that the Soviets "will not be intimidated by this blackmail."

II. NON-COMMUNIST COMMENTS

A. UNITED KINGDOM

Embassy London reported on November 21 that at least seven papers had commented editorially on the recent Eniwetok tests. Comment in general expressed great apprehension, coupled with some relief that "so powerful a weapon is so far in the exclusive possession of a country that will use it only in defense of freedom," to quote one paper. As of November 21 neither the Times (Independent, influential), nor the Manchester Guardian (Liberal) had editorialized on this matter.

The Reynolds News (Cooperative, left-wing) said that "there can be little doubt that this meant that a hydrogen bomb has been exploded." Crossman in the Sunday Pictorial (Independent, anti-Conservative) said the American H-bomb helps to restore the Western balance of power with the Russians, and may help to cut NATO defense quotas. The Daily Herald (official paper of the Labor Party), remembering America's vocal concern as to the adequacy of Britain's security measures, now points a criticizing finger in return: "The complete breakdown of American security precautions during the recent hydrogen-bomb experiment at Eniwetok has shocked the US Administration... Now it is being asked whether Britain will be anxious to entrust her dearly bought atomic secrets to Americans."

B. WEST GERMANY

Several leading dailies gave prominent treatment to the AEC's announcement of "atomic experiments" at Eniwetok, saying this probably meant that the H-bomb has been exploded.

C. INDIA

In Bombay the English-language press carried factual stories emanating from Washington and New York on the AEC's announcement, with two papers accorded the item front-page treatment. It may be significant that only one paper, the Times of India, commented editorially. The Times' editorial alluded to the problem of international atomic control and the advisability of reopening negotiations on this matter. The US Consulate feels that in Bombay press reactions to the H-bomb have been mild .

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and insignificant compared to reactions to the explosion of the first atomic bomb.

In the New Delhi press comment was limited. Referring to a statement from America that the H-bomb had now been manufactured and would soon be released, Urdu Aljamiat said the vast sum spent on even a single atom bomb could easily educate a large number of ignorant people, and commented, "It seems that Western civilization would destroy itself by its own deeds. And Nature would wreak vengeance by using these very tyrants." Quoting from the epic Mahabharat, Urdu Milap said: "History is repeating itself; it's the same cold war, the same preparations. What will be the end?"

D. JAPAN

An editorial in the Tokyo Times of November 19 is summarized as follows: The US Atomic Energy Commission announced that the US has successfully exploded a hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok. Judging from information concerning US experiments on the H-bomb, the US has the most powerful weapon on record in history. Successful experiments on H-bomb Number One are indicative of the speedy approach of a revolution in atomic industry. However, it would be most tragic if we should fight each other with these powerful weapons before the advent of this second industrial revolution. Common sense ought to tell us that the other party in the cold war is producing H-bombs or will complete them in the near future. Should both A-bombs and H-bombs be employed in a battle between the US and Soviet camps, our glorious civilization will be completely destroyed and we will go straight back to a barbaric age.

An editorial in Tokyo Shimbun on November 19 is summarized as follows: Today's talk between President Truman and President-Elect Eisenhower is the first step in a shift from the so-called containment policy to a so-called roll-back policy. On the other hand, the Indian plan for solution of the Korean prisoner exchange issue was presented to the UN General Assembly, then the US Government announced that H-bomb tests at Eniwetok were conducted successfully. These connected problems greatly affect a world which stands at the crossroads of peace or war. Some people consider that President-Elect Eisenhower's roll-back policy is the only way to maintain peace, on the ground that the US cannot expect a Soviet understanding except by confrontation of force. However, some other people fear that policy will lead to world cataclysm. Anyway, it seems to be inevitable that the cold war will become intense. The appearance of hydrogen bombs at this time when international control of A-bombs is not yet established has cast a shadow over the UN. If the Indian plan, considered to be the last one for the Korean war prisoner issue, comes to nothing, fierce battles will occur in Korea again. In that event, no one can guarantee that the Korean War will not develop into an unforeseen state. Therefore, we earnestly desire that the countries concerned will cooperate in bringing peace.