

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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to provide information and to stimulate discussion. Not to be attributed as official FAS policy unless specifically so indicated.

Supreme Court Voids Communist Mail Law

The Supreme Court ruled on May 24 that the law regulating the receipt of unsealed Communist mail from abroad is unconstitutional. The decision was unanimous.

Justice William O. Douglas said that the law is "at war" with the wide-open debate and discussion contemplated by the First Amendment. The opinion cited a dissent of 44 years ago in which the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said that "the use of the mails is almost as much a part of free speech as the right to use our tongues."

The decision was believed to be the first since 1946 in which an Act of Congress was voided by a unanimous court. The decision was also said by an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union to be the first in which the Court found a Federal law to be in direct violation of the First Amendment.

The author of the statute, Representative Glenn Cunningham (Republican of Nebraska), said he was studying the decision and planning to introduce new legislation with similar intent. The 1962 law, which did not apply to first class mail, required the Postmaster General to detain foreign publications designated by Customs officials as "Communist political propaganda." The addressee was then notified that the mail was being held up and would be destroyed unless he returned a reply card within 20 days. Last March the Post Office Department abandoned a practice of maintaining a list of those who returned the cards. The Department adopted a new practice of requiring a reply card for each individual piece of mail requested.

Justices Brennan, Goldberg, and Harlan termed the right to receive publications a "fundamental right." The dissemination of ideas can accomplish nothing if otherwise willing addressees are not free to receive and consider them. It would be a barren marketplace of ideas that had only sellers and no buyers."

The Postmaster General said that the Post Offices have been notified to discontinue immediately their work on this program. He said that the court's ruling would save the Department about \$250,000 a year.

The Government had argued that Congress enacted the mail curb in the awareness that a postal subsidy in effect was being given to the very Communist governments that bar American publications. Justice Brennan replied to this: "That the governments which originate this propaganda themselves have no equivalent guarantees only highlights the values of our constitutional framework; it can never justify emulating the practices of restrictive regimes in the name of expediency." (*Washington Post*, 5/25/65)

Japanese Fallout Alert Result of Chinese Bomb

Japan received the first sign of radioactive fallout from the second Chinese atomic explosion two days after it was detonated in the Taklamakan desert, about 5,000 miles west of Japan. Thirteen meteorological stations in Japan were alerted to watch for fallout, and scientists warned the nation to expect the air to be contaminated for a week. Japanese jets were sent to high altitudes to begin measuring air currents for fallout signs.

The previous Chinese nuclear test produced second thoughts in some restricted quarters as to whether Japan should not consider developing such advanced armaments for self-protection. Such speculation was on an insignificant scale, but the new advance in nuclear weapons by Peking may have further effect on what a N. Y. *Times* reporter called the country's "lagging defense consciousness."

It was thought that the amount of radioactivity in the air would be below harmful levels, but the atom-wary Japanese were not noticeably consoled by this assurance. "However little radioactive dust falls over Japan, we are fed up with it," said the influential newspaper *Mainichi*. "What the Japanese people seek is an immediate halt to all nuclear tests for the sake of mankind." Strong condemnation of Communist China's nuclear test came from the Government of Japan and all political parties except the Communists. A spokesman for the foreign office said Tokyo would lodge an official protest with Peking immediately.

Akira Sono, spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said the Chinese blast "ignored the earnest wishes of all peoples of the world."

South Korean Information Minister Hong Chong Chul called the test a "barbarous act trampling mankind's prayer for peace."

India's Home Minister, G. L. Nanda, told newsmen in New Delhi the test is "a threat and a challenge to the forces of peace and human welfare." However, Nanda said the explosion would not make India change its mind on not manufacturing nuclear weapons, even though Red Chinese forces threaten its northern borders.

In Djakarta, the Indonesian Communist Party leader, D. N. Aidit, congratulated Peking and said the blast was a "horrible blow" to the United States. He said the nuclear bomb in the hands of the new emerging forces "should not be compared with the nuclear bombs of the old established forces" because "nuclear weapons in the hands of new emerging forces are to strengthen the struggle for peace and to encourage the national freedom struggle in the world."

President Ho Chi Minh of North Viet-Nam sent a message to Chinese leaders saying the atomic test "has greatly inspired the Vietnamese people," Radio Hanoi said.

(Continued on Page 2)

JAPANESE FALLOUT ALERT

(Continued from Page 1)

The message said China, provided with improved nuclear weapons, will constitute "an extremely important factor for checking the U. S. imperialists' scheme of aggression and war provocation . . ."

Communists supporting Russia maintained an icy silence. No comment had been reported since Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin said in Moscow: "I do not think any sane person can think of using nuclear weapons."

From Manila, Albert Ravenholt of the Chicago Daily News Service reported that anti-Communist nations like Thailand, South Viet-Nam, Malaysia and the Philippines will now be under greater pressure from without and within to fall into line with "Asia's wave of the future." To resist these pressures, he said, these nations will have little choice but to become more militant in their anti-communism.

The political use of Peking's atomic achievements, Ravenholt reported, is made possible partly by widespread misconceptions in Asia about nuclear power.

The new Communist Chinese test "adds a little more bleakness to the world," Sen. John J. Sparkman, D-Ala., acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said.

"I think it sharpens the focus on moves to bring nuclear weapons under some kind of control and to forestall their future proliferation," Sparkman told reporters.

He said it is only a matter of time before Red China develops "a deliverable weapon." (*Washington Evening Star*, 5/14/65; *N. Y. Times*, 5/16/65; *Washington Post*, 5/16/65.)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

July 16, 1965 will be the 20th anniversary of the first nuclear explosion in New Mexico. That explosion was followed shortly by the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the end of World War II, the beginnings of FAS and of the nuclear arms race. To those who would review that period of history I recommend *The New World* by Hewlett and Anderson, Penn State Univ. Press. At that time I was one of the oldest of the young atomic scientists, which makes me rather ancient now. You really should have voted me out to pasture in this last election.

The Federation of Atomic/American Scientists' first tasks were domestic and foreign "atomic" policy. We're not too much concerned with the USAEC these days, but the problem of the arms race and disarmament is still with us and still

(Continued on Page 4)

FAS NEWSLETTER

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Chairman..... Dr. W. A. Higinbotham

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Editor: Judith Eckerson.

The FAS, founded in 1946, is a national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs.

Sources of information (given at the end of articles in parentheses) are for further reference. Items reprinted directly from other publications are designated as such in an introductory paragraph.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DEATH AND IDENTITY, Robert Fulton (ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1965. 415 pp.

This book's purpose is to increase the knowledge of the public on the "problems caused by death." This may seem to indicate that an advanced technological society, complete with medical arts which may extend life to improbable length, has almost lost the ability to believe *anything* inevitable. The advance literature advertising the book made reference to chapters about "therapy," and it was not clear whether the therapy was for grief, or death itself. On closer scrutiny, however, the book made clear that if death has not changed substantially in our modern world, the human reaction to it has definitely undergone a metamorphosis. It has become possible for the man-in-the-street to ignore death. All of his children will grow to maturity; his wife will survive childbirth and look at fifty as her mother did at thirty-five; he can send his parents to a retirement village in a distant state where they will die and be "taken care of" by strangers; and he never thinks about his own death—it isn't healthy to consider it.

Yet a thing which is invisible, as death is throughout most of our society, can be more terrifying than something which is seen. Whether he considers it inevitable, or normal, to die, the average man is painfully and anxiously aware that death for the 20th Century is not an individual but a collective threat. Man does not feel that death waits at the end of his life, but that it hovers over all life. The plane crash, the factory fire, the sudden pollution of a city water supply, a killer smog, a highway chain collision, and most of all the sudden war which may last only hours—there are the forms of death which absorb the imagination of the people of developed nations today. Slow-moving old age is a pleasant thought in contrast. The materialists who tear down 15-year-old buildings to build new ones are aware that no civilization has so well arranged its potential transitoriness.

The book quotes those who have seen urban advancement and lives end in the same cataclysm: "I climbed Hiji-yama Mountain and looked down. I saw that Hiroshima had disappeared . . . Of course I saw many dreadful scenes after that—but that experience, looking down and finding nothing left of Hiroshima—was so shocking that I simply can't express what I felt . . . Hiroshima didn't exist—that was mainly what I saw—Hiroshima just didn't exist." The extensive chapter on the new kind of death that began at Hiroshima held a note of fear, even beyond that of mass death. There were those who survived the bombing, who nevertheless believed for some months that all who were there would soon die. Groups of such people talked to each other, expressing the fear—seemingly irrelevant—that trees and grass would not grow in Hiroshima again. It became a large element in their fear; something related to reason suggested that in accomplishing what seemed only an extension of simpler acts of war, man had crossed a boundary and become a force of nature.

It is because he is still, individually, an animal at the mercy of such forces that he has banished the sight of death, and buried the fear of it at the dead center of his too-busy existence.

FRENCH DISPUTE UN AUTHORITY

France maintained in a statement on April 23 in New York that the UN General Assembly does not have the power even to make recommendations on the use of force to maintain peace. The statement to the special 33-nation Committee on Peacekeeping was in direct opposition to the US position that the 114-nation Assembly has full power to deal with any peacekeeping problem, and was stronger than Soviet claims that the Assembly could make recommendations on peacekeeping only after the Security Council failed to act. (*Washington Post*, 4/25/65)

OF INTEREST . . .

Fly ash, an air pollutant and product of the combustion of coal, has been found to be of use in manufacturing concrete, by the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, which filters the substance out of its coal smoke. Whereas it had formerly paid \$1.75 per cubic yard to have the fly ash towed to sea and dumped beyond the continental shelf, the company is now selling marble-sized pellets of it for \$4.50 per cubic yard. According to Con Edison officials, builders like the fly ash aggregate because concrete made with it weighs one-third less than regular stone concrete. The reduced weight permits lighter foundations and floor and column sections as well as less structural steel, thus reducing building costs. Agitation over air pollution from fly ash led to the development of methods of removing it from gases before they were released into the air. In the past, about 10 per cent of the fly ash has been used commercially, and 90 per cent has been disposed of at sea. (*N. Y. Times*, 5/28/65)

A new publication for teenagers, called *Personal Health* (by Neill A. Rosser, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1965), has devoted an entire chapter to "Environmental Health Hazards" including nuclear tests, nuclear warfare, depletion of living space, air pollution, water contamination, pesticides, and accidents. These environmental hazards are presented in this order.

The Government of India has officially sponsored a program of birth control with the use of intra-uterine devices. It has begun a drive to popularize the use of one form of the device known as Lippe's loop, a small bit of plastic which costs about 2 cents. The difference between the number of births and deaths in India this year will be 14 million. (*N. Y. Times*, 5/10/65)

SUSQUEHANNA FISH KILL

A photograph of the shores of the Susquehanna River strewn with the piled-up bodies of dead fish was accompanied by a story entitled "Thousands of Fish Die in Susquehanna" in the May 5 issue of the *Cecil Whig*, published in Elkton, Maryland. The story reported that the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs of the state of Maryland was sending biologist investigators to discover the cause of the large fish kill, which at the time of the report was unexplained.

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CHALFONT FEARS ATOM CIVIL WARS

The following article appeared in the *N. Y. Times* on April 29, 1965.

Lord Chalfont, Britain's Minister for Disarmament, warned the United Nations today that a failure to halt the spread of nuclear weapons would raise the danger of their use by irresponsible revolutionary forces.

To a country that acquired nuclear weapons before its neighbor, Lord Chalfont said, "the temptation to use them might be irresistible."

"It is even possible," he added, "in the context of a nuclear free-for-all, that weapons might get into the hands of people wanting to upset the established government to their own country. The idea of nuclear revolution may be too horrible for sane men to contemplate, but we should not deceive ourselves. It is one of the logical ends of the unrestrained spread of nuclear weapons."

Lord Chalfont told the commission, comprising representatives of all 114 member nations, that Britain was actively studying means of reducing the world stock of nuclear weapons, "and we hope in due course to put forward some constructive proposals to this end."

In his 50-minute address, Lord Chalfont reminded the commission that he had spent 22 years as a professional soldier. He left the British Army in 1961 as a lieutenant colonel after service in World War II and in Cyprus and in Malaya.

TWO STEPS ENVISIONED

Lord Chalfont argued that to avoid a world catastrophe it was necessary to halt the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries and then to reduce existing stocks.

"The first priority is to halt and reverse the direction of the present uncontrolled arms race, and particularly the mounting production of ever costlier weapons of mass destruction," he said.

The nuclear-arms problem "lies at the heart of all discussion about disarmament," Lord Chalfont said. "Even now, at this moment, the order and stability of the world could be assured by a reduction of these awesome thermonuclear weapons to lower, safer and less costly levels."

In another address to the Commission, Karoly Csatorday of Hungary attacked Adlai E. Stevenson, the United States delegate, for his speech Monday and denounced American "criminal acts" in Southeast Asia. He accused the United States of trying to supply nuclear arms to West German "revenge seekers."

William C. Foster, United States disarmament negotiator, said in reply to Mr. Csatorday that he hoped other speakers would not "indulge in similar gross distortions of history or false charges about the policies of my Government, the Federal Republic of Germany or any other Government."

Mr. Foster said: "I submit that the subject of arms control and disarmament is too important to be buried under a heap of irrelevant propaganda charges."

SWEDEN WILL SET UP PEACE INSTITUTE

Sweden intends to set up an international research institute in Stockholm to examine the causes of political conflict and ways of settling them.

Mrs. Alva Myrdal, Sweden's top disarmament negotiator who has taken over preliminary planning, sees the institute as a "truth-telling center."

The plan, she said, is to gather together scientists, scholars and diplomats—persons of such recognized reputation for objectivity that the institute's work will receive respectful attention in world capitals.

Mrs. Myrdal explained during an interview that the institute could play a key role in promoting disarmament efforts. It could, for example, serve as the focal point of a world-wide monitoring system, checking on clandestine underground nuclear tests. The feasibility of such a role for the institute is being studied closely. (*N. Y. Times*, 5/9/65)

BIRTH CONTROL BY INJECTION NOW BEING TESTED

Birth control by means of an hypodermic injection has emerged from limited clinical testing and is now undergoing a two-year trial that will involve about 5,000 women.

The progress in "pregnancy protection" was reported at a meeting of the American Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel. The method, employing hormones similar to those used in pills (progesterin and estrogen), involves one shot a month, to correspond with the menstrual cycles.

Dr. Donald P. Swartz, director, of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Harlem Hospital Center in New York, whose research with the shots involved 127 women, said that the initial results were "promising."

The appeal of "pregnancy protection" shots, he said, is similar to that of contraceptive pills, which he defined as "freedom in the marital relationship from the necessity of performing mechanical measures to avoid conception during sexual intercourse."

Dr. Melvin L. Taymore of the gynecology department of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, said that one of the chief drawbacks to success with contraceptive methods in many countries was the lack of sufficiently sustained motivation for daily self-administration.

He said that many patients liked shots, especially those from a "depressed socio-economic background."

"One can speculate that in many of the so-called underdeveloped areas such control will be necessary and often culturally desirable," he said.

In another report to the meeting, Prof. Philip M. Hauser, one of the country's outstanding population experts, said that progress toward birth control among the poor and illiterate of the world's developing areas had been "most disheartening."

"They have not produced results which can indicate that the population in nations such as India and Communist China can be expected greatly to reduce their birth rates," Professor Hauser said.

Professor said that a growing list of countries had adopted birth control as public policy including China, India, Pakistan, South Korea, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic. He also cited birth control pills and intrauterine devices as "breakthroughs."

It is yet to be demonstrated that a nation steeped in illiteracy and poverty could control its birth rate, he said. But he noted that in economically advanced nations there was control even where there were ideological barriers—whether Roman Catholic or Communist. (*N. Y. Times*, 5/5/65)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

(Continued from Page 2)

seems to be as tough to resolve. There is still a role for the FAS, though just what this role may be is not always evident.

Viet-Nam was very much in the minds of the Council delegates when they met April 25 in Washington. Everyone opposed the bombings, but realized this was not a scientific judgment. There are many other channels available to members who would attack the Vietnam policy more aggressively. But I hope you won't forget FAS entirely because there are still issues which require our close attention. Let me list a few:

Although little formal progress on disarmament is likely at present, the matter of proliferation of nuclear weapons becomes more pressing. This requires agreement by "have not" as well as by "have" nations, and it is important to learn what conditions various nations will consider to be essential. The multilateral nuclear force is on the shelf, but not yet dead. And the increased supply of nuclear weapons in the European theater is disturbing. It appears that bomb shelters will become a hot item again, supported by a National Academy study and by DOD (FAS had a great deal of trouble finding a position the last time this subject came up and may again). There are more reports of difficulties with visas for foreign visitors. The Los Angeles chapter has been working on the issues involved in nuclear power. Some committee should volunteer to study "Plowshare" re a new Panama canal.

There is always legislation of interest to FAS: Senate Concurrent Resolution 32, "That the President should be supported in his efforts to achieve peace and disarmament . . .," several bills to establish a National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities, the new immigration bills, bills to require humane treatment of animals in the laboratory, etc.

On May 27 I was among the representatives of organizations concerned with disarmament who were at the White House to witness signing of the act which extends the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for another 3 years. The proceedings were delayed for 1½ hours by a conference on the Dominican crisis, which gave me an opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the AEC, the Director of ACDA, and with the President's Scientific Advisor, among others. The ceremony took place in the Rose Garden. President Johnson's speech on the dangers of nuclear war and the need for disarmament was solid FAS policy. It was a pretty hot day but I am pleased that the FAS was invited.

I know it is rather futile to ask, but I would like to know who the members are and what *they* think FAS should be doing. Won't you drop a note to me, via the *Newsletter* direct?

WILLY HIGINBOTHAM

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