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Allen-Scott Report

# Can Communists Control Weather

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Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON — From the Communist half of the world, we are beginning to hear strange sounds, remarkably like the rumble of gun carriages moving into place before a great battle or an epic-making event.

The first omen of trouble is an intelligence report from U.S. officials in Moscow that Soviet scientists may be nearing human control of weather and thus development of the "ultimate weapon."

The second warning of an ominous and - or monumental space event is from a Polish scientist attending the 17th Annual International Astronautical Congress in Madrid.

In a private meeting with U.S. intelligence authorities, this Polish scientist warned that the Russians were planning a "weather changing" experiment designed to "electrify the world" and affect the weather in many areas of the globe.

According to this "report from Madrid," the Soviet weather test will take place in late October or November and might be included in the space spectacular for visiting World Communist party leaders now gathered in Moscow.

If the weather experiment is not attempted this month, the Polish scientist said there was talk among Russian technicians that it would coincide with either the Nov. 12 eclipse of the sun or during the Leonid shower of meteorites, which is expected to be visible on Nov. 16.

U.S. space officials are planning an experiment timed with the latter.

In this startling report to U.S. authorities, the Polish scientist revealed that the Soviets were dealing with forces "almost beyond imagination." Their weather experiments, he claimed, would include the detonation of a nuclear warhead thousands of miles in outer space.

Many of the Russian scientists involved in the coming weather experiments, he said, were concerned that their tinkering might touch off a catastrophic reaction.

Whether these reports had been passed on to President Johnson could not be immediately ascertained by this column. However, the "Madrid report" arrived in Washington early on Tuesday, Oct. 11 — or nearly a week before the President departed on his Asian trip.

Coincidentally, a few days later, on Friday, Oct. 14 — Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, the director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, forecast that man would be able to achieve major control over the weather in this century.

In a little-noticed talk at a science symposium at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., Dr. Roberts reported that the key to controlling weather was the construction of a giant computer large enough to duplicate the mechanisms of weather.

While he presented no information on Soviet advances in building such a computer, Dr. Roberts reported that the U.S. did not now have one and probably wouldn't until the mid-'70s.

According to Dr. Roberts scientists now believe that extremely small forces are the "triggers" for weather changes although weather involves forces of major dimensions.

"Although we don't know what triggers are at work," he explained, "we know how to approach this question and are doing it."

A noted solar astronomer, Dr. Roberts mentioned a number of possible weather triggers, including "cirrus clouds, carbon dioxide, volcanic dust, and the melting of Arctic ice."

The National Center for Atmospheric Research, which is undertaking a number of these weather studies, is located at the University of Colorado, in Boulder.

At the University of Colorado also the Air Force has authorized a group of scientists to make a full-scale study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, D-Conn., who has been warning his colleagues that weather control can be used as a massive weapon of war, is setting the

stage to bring this new danger into the open.

Under the senator's personal direction, the staff of his Senate Government Operations Subcommittee is now gathering information from administration sources on the military implications of both U.S. and Soviet weather modification programs.

Aides report that Senator Ribicoff plans hearings "sometime after the November elections."

At that time, top administration, intelligence, defense and nuclear scientists will be called as witnesses to determine whether Russia or the U.S. is ahead in this scientific race to achieve human control of the world's weather.

If the rumblings coming out of Moscow are not entirely delusive, the next few weeks should give U.S. authorities the evidence needed to determine how far the Russians have advanced toward obtaining that "ultimate weapon."

U.S. and Russian undersea warfare experts are playing out a cold-war battle in the Bahamas that goes well beyond the underwater spy clashes of a James Bond thriller filmed on location there.

It centers on the U.S. underwater warfare test ground near Nassau, called AUTEK; the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center.