

INFORMATION REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Belgium
SUBJECT Speech by Max Cosyns on the United States Atomic Energy Program

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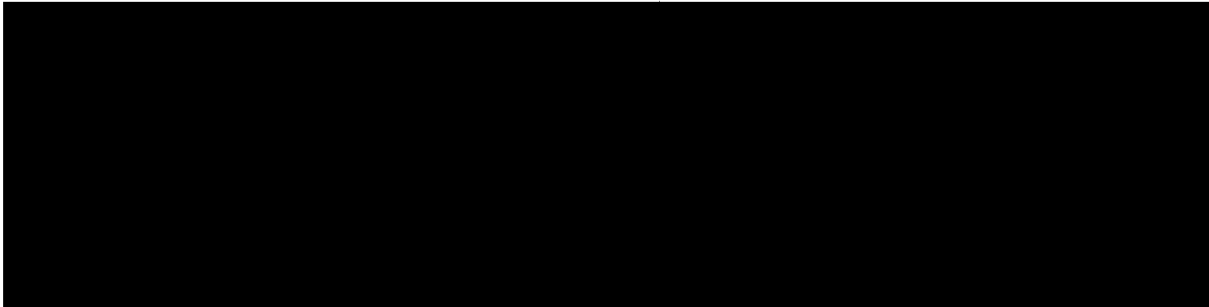
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- On 24 June 1950, the Union Belge pour la Defense de la Paix (UBDP), a Communist front organization, held a meeting in Brussels at which the two principal speakers were Professor Max Cosyns and Gustave Eugene I. Besoi.
- Cosyns, a pro-Soviet nuclear physicist at the University of Brussels who has been reported to be a member of the Belgian Communist Party, gave a discourse on the subject of "Nuclear Energy, Science and Peace". In this speech, Cosyns described the development of the control of nuclear energy. The following is a summary of the major points of his talk:
- In 1939, developments in the field of nuclear energy had reached the point of practical application. Beginning in 1941 until the end of the war, the United States concentrated upon this problem. The extremely high costs of this work were borne by the American trusts in return for a guarantee by the United States Government that they would have exclusive rights to the industrial application of the discoveries, which would give them a tremendous advantage over all other countries. However, in September 1945, the United States Government reversed its decision and decided to keep the new discoveries secret. As compensation, the trusts were awarded a subsidy for the manufacture of atomic bombs, but this compensation was ludicrous in comparison with the immense profits the trusts would have made had they been able to put the new discoveries to industrial use. Cosyns reported that the directors of the trusts have become extremely discontented with this state of affairs, as they become aware of the fact that the monopolistic policy of the United States Government has enabled other countries, particularly the U.S.S.R., to overtake the U. S. in the development of nuclear energy. The actual reason for this policy, however, is an effort on the part of the United States to preserve its economic superiority by controlling the development of nuclear energy. In this respect, the lecturer made a special point of the fact that he had requested that two percent of the uranium production of the Belgian Congo be allocated to Belgian laboratories, but had been given only 1/10,000 of one percent. He remarked that even had the two percent request been accorded, it would take Belgium thirty years to produce one sole atomic bomb, and there was every reason to believe that before that we would be involved in a new war. He stated that development towards the use of atomic piles in the production of electricity had already been retarded five years by the restrictions imposed by the United States, and repeated that these restrictions were imposed for the purpose of safeguarding American economic predominance rather than to prevent the acquisition of important information by an unfriendly power.

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4. Following this, Gustave Eugene Dusesoi, the director of the information service of the URDP, delivered an oration on the horrors of an atomic war and the isolation in Europe which was to be expected as a result of the plans of the western Powers to defend Europe against the Soviet Union. After an introductory discourse dealing with the long-term as well as the immediate effects of an atomic blast, Dusesoi went on to an analysis of the strategic considerations of an atomic war between the U.S.S.R. and the Western allies. He pointed out that the U.S.A., because of the concentration of its industry and population, was much more vulnerable to an atomic attack than was the Soviet Union. This was the reason behind the reported plans of the U.S.A. to attempt to hold any Soviet advance at a succession of European defense lines by the use of atomic bomb attacks from advance air bases in Western Europe. He painted a graphic picture of the desolation which would be inflicted upon Europe as a result of this strategy. At the end of his speech, Dusesoi called upon all men of good will, of all religions and of all classes to join the partisans of peace in an effort to prevent the next war from occurring.

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