

LIFE

COMMUNISM PART II

Khrushchev Close In

VIETNAM: Our Next Showdown



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ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

Part II in LIFE's series on Communism. The key to Khrushchev: terror and manipulation. By John K. Jessup

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BUTTON, BUTTON WHO'S GOT IT?

The players, playing court and officials are familiar but the object of *this* game would baffle any sports buff. Is it indoor mumblety-peg, jackstraws, the tense finish to a peanut hunt? Or did someone carry the hidden-ball trick too far? The scene occurred in Worcester, Mass. during a conventional basketball game between the Boston Celtics and Syracuse Nationals and was the result of a personal crisis. Tom Sanders of Boston (*on one knee at right, center*) lost a contact lens. He is finding it at this very instant, during the frantic, two-team hunt.

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One section of Port Malabar's present residential area.

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EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

France in trouble; a secret army plans a Putsch

France talks a tough line on Berlin. But at home President de Gaulle's attempts to solve the Algerian crisis threaten to bring down his own regime and, in what would be a disaster to the West, end the Fifth Republic. From Paris, TIME-LIFE Chief Curt Prendergast reports on the ominous situation:

The most common word in France today is a German one—*Putsch*. In Algeria there have already been two armed uprisings against De Gaulle's policies, followed at home by an attempt on his life. This week's rioting in Paris, ending with the arrest of 15,000 Algerian Moslems and the deportation of 1,545, was merely the latest sign of the general unrest.

A "Secret Army Organization" is headed by renegade General Raoul Salan. It controls the loyalties of a million Europeans in Algeria. Salan (operating from a secret hiding place) swears that the S.A.O. will have 100,000 men under arms by the end of 1961, ready to fight to prevent French "abandonment" of Algeria and also to take on the still undefeated Moslem rebels. No one is taking his threats lightly. The January 1960 civilian uprising in Algiers failed for lack of army support. The generals' uprising last April excluded the civilians.

The new uprising, as projected, would bring military and civilians together, probably in this sort of sequence. First the S.A.O. would try to seize Oran and Algiers, the African cities with the heaviest French population. Counting on the regular army to stay neutral, the secret army would proclaim a "Republic of French Algeria," hoping to force recognition from the war-weary French without resorting to fighting in France. At this point De Gaulle's options might be to abandon his goal of an independent Algeria or order French forces to kill other Frenchmen in the name of the Moslem rebels. His personal prestige would be shattered and he could be forced from power.

As this threat grows, the old politicians of the Fourth Republic—Socialist Guy Mollet, Conservative Antoine Pinay and maverick Pierre Mendès-France—are gathering like vultures and conspiring

for positions in another projection—a new popular-front regime. But if De Gaulle departs it will be the army which makes the new rules.

For the imminent showdown De Gaulle must once again count on his trump—a mystic power over the French populace. He has gambled that prestige in every previous crisis, but each time the base of his popular support has narrowed. "Maybe he can do it once more," said a French journalist. "Who can tell until it happens?"

Russia is ready with fallout shelters

Mrs. Khrushchev's soothing statement recently that Russians are not building fallout shelters was accepted by most Americans because that was what they had been told all along. What Mrs. Khrushchev failed to say is that Russia has already built its shelters and already has a superior civil defense organization. This challenging revelation (to us) is made in a scholarly book, *Civil Defense in the Soviet Union*, by Leon Gouré of the Rand Corporation.

Russian civil defense efforts have never really flagged, says Gouré, since World War II. Through the regular state machinery, civil defense discipline and information are handed down from the top echelons and soundly drummed into the masses. Since 1955, 64 hours of compulsory training have been given to every one of some 30 million members of DOSAAF, an auxiliary organization of the armed forces. Trained even more intensively are the regular civil defense corps (the MPVO), which Mrs. Khrushchev's husband has boasted is more than 22-million strong. Training covers survival procedures not only for nuclear attack but for chemical and bacteriological warfare as well. An estimated 30 million gas masks have already been issued.

While their U.S. counterparts are still learning basics most MPVO workers are already specialists. Separate squads handle the moving of people into shelters, the transport for evacuating cities, the repair of public utilities and other vital installations (such as sealing off a radioactive sewer), the supply of noncontaminated food to disaster areas, medical aid, fire fighting, decontamination of people, clothing, buildings and terrain—even veterinary care for blitzed beef.

As a result, most Russians know the different warnings for "threat-



ALGERIANS SEIZED IN PARIS RIOTS LINE UP FOR DEPORTATION

ening situation alert," "air raid alert" and "chemical alert," and know what to do in each case. As for bomb shelters, though there are few private ones, huge secret blast-proof caverns have been built for key scientific, military and party personnel, and public fallout shelters have been prepared in city basements and subways. "I have pointed out the vents in pictures of Moscow buildings shown me by our own officials," says Gouré. "They are hard to find only if you don't know what to look for."

U.N. REPORT:

The 50-megatonner usurps the rostrum

The urgent practical problems besetting the U.N. and threatening its very survival were all pushed into the background by the international outcry against Khrushchev's plan to detonate a 50-megaton bomb (see *Editorial p. 4*). Nation after nation in committee after committee offered resolutions protesting and criticizing Russia's radioactive intransigence.

While U.S. officials were hopeful that Khrushchev might still call off the 50-megaton test, Khrushchev did his level worst to point up the threat by setting off the biggest nuclear blast to date.

Despite the mounting protests at the U.N. last week, Communist delegates had remained strangely silent, and U.S. delegates did not mind seeing them squirm. Nuclear testing put the U.S. in a tough spot too—one which was carefully spelled out to the other nations in a major speech by U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson. Regardless of U.N. resolutions and Russian superbombs, Stevenson made the point that the U.S. must decide its

own nuclear course on one basis alone: national security. If national security requires above-ground tests, and if there is still no international test-ban agreement with adequate controls, the U.S. may have to flout the U.N. for the first time. The U.S. simply cannot afford to be the patsy again if Russia, after its 50-megaton spectacular, announces a new unilateral test moratorium. The difficulty of selling such a stand diplomatically was delicate enough for President Kennedy over the weekend to call Stevenson to the Little White House in Newport for a review of U.S.-U.N. strategy.

All week long the Public Health Service's radiological division in Washington received calls from worried parents, some of them long distance. "Should I keep Johnny home from school so he won't have to drink the free milk?" "What area in the U.S. can we move to to be safe from fallout?"

The answers to these questions were: don't worry about the milk—or the water or the air—and don't try to escape fallout from tests. It's worldwide. Though all radiation is bad for healthy human cells, the present fallout rate, even if the Russians add another 100 megatons, will do little immediate harm. For an actuarial approach to the magnified megaton menace, consider the estimates of a company which has studied the matter: Northwestern National Life Insurance Co. of Minneapolis. Northwestern considers fallout relatively minor compared to common household hazards. By Linus Pauling's extreme figuring, for instance, the 200-odd megatons' worth of fallout from all past tests might shorten 140,000 lives through cancer and hereditary defects. Northwestern calculates that this represents only the same risk to the average American as drowning in his bathtub.