

# SOVIET EXPLOITS ITS NEW 'SPUTNIK DIPLOMACY'

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

Since the Soviet space satellite has been in its orbit, Moscow has been showing what many are now calling sputnik diplomacy. No telescope or other artificial aids are needed to see and study the new Soviet policy. Nikita S. Khrushchev is personally spearheading the present offensive and acting as the principal public enunciator of the new policy. His over-all objective is plain: to win the maximum number of political and propaganda gains possible in the new world situation created by the space satellite's vivid demonstration of Soviet long-distance rocket capabilities.

## Points of Strength

Mr. Khrushchev seems to think that it is he and his country that can now speak and act from a position of strength, thus turning the tables on the United States. The major immediate specific objectives he is seeking, as they have emerged from his interviews with James Reston and other foreigners, from his letter to the Western European socialist parties, and from the voluminous recent output of Soviet press and radio propaganda, appear to be these:

(1) A major effort is being made to create the stereotype of the Soviet Union as being now the world's strongest military and scientific power.

(2) A massive effort is now being made to break up the Free World's defensive alliances, most particularly the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Corollary to this, of course, is the fact that, if successful, this effort would end the existence of the ring of bases for United States bombers which now exists around the Soviet empire.

(3) The Soviet Union now hopes that it may be possible to negotiate a disarmament agreement on its own terms.

(4) The Soviet Union now seeks to impose and to have generally accepted its hegemony over the Middle East.

(5) The Soviet Union demands that the West give up any thought of rolling back the Communist tide and surrender any hope of liberating the Communist countries.

The Soviet tactics now being employed to attain these objectives are of three types:



Somerville in The Atlanta Journal

"Beep boo . . . Beep boo . . . Beep boo . . ."

(1) moves aimed at enhancing Soviet prestige generally; (2) moves aimed at intimidating Soviet opponents; (3) moves aimed at arousing hopes that tolerable bargains can be struck with the Russians now.

## Sputnik Tactics

In the first tactical area, the sputnik is, of course, the primary new credential claimed for Soviet technological and military supremacy.

The fact there is a satellite in space is being used as unchallenged "proof" that the Soviet Union has intercontinental ballistic missiles and is far ahead of the United States in military science and technology.

The second tactic, intimidation, is now the main method.

When Mr. Khrushchev boasted to British parliamentarians that "bombers are obsolete," he was asserting implicitly that the Soviet Union is now the strongest power in the world and that specifically it need not fear the Strategic Air Command of the United States. Turkey has been threatened openly with rocket warfare, a threat made more menacing by the artificial furor Moscow has generated with its charges of United States plans to precipitate a Turkish attack upon Syria.

Threats against Turkey are, again by implication, leveled also at every other country that opposes the Soviet Union.

All Western European and Middle Eastern nations are acutely aware that they are well within the range of Soviet intermediate range missiles—weapons which need be far less powerful than the rockets that sent up the sputnik.

A more subtle form of intimidation is represented by the ostensible Khrushchev offer of a two-power deal between his country and the United States. Mr. Khrushchev thus raised before all of the United States' allies the prospect that the United States might go it alone and make a bargain with Moscow. This prospect is intended to suggest to each of our allies that it might be better to make its own bargain with Moscow before it is sold down the river by Washington.

## Assessment of Danger

Finally, Mr. Khrushchev hopes to intimidate the people of the Soviet Union's earthbound satellites into believing that they should give up any hope of liberation and, instead, believe that the United States is likely soon to reach an agreement at their expense with the Soviet Union. The third Soviet tactic, that

of apparent sweet reasonableness, is exemplified by a passage in the Khrushchev letter to the British Labor party. There he suggests in effect that if the British Socialists will help secure the victory of Soviet Middle Eastern policy, it will be possible for Britain to get all the oil she needs from the Middle East, "on the basis of mutually profitable trade connections."

It is the threat of war resulting from Soviet moves these last two weeks that has most captured Western minds, of course. Yet it seems dubious that Mr. Khrushchev either wants or expects war to result from even the most adventurous aspects of his present foreign policy.

## Khrushchev's Reasons

Mr. Khrushchev's reasons for not wanting the world to fall over the brink into Armageddon are at least two in number:

(1) As he admitted to Mr. Reston, he fully understands that, despite his boasting, a war in the near future would result in "colossal" losses to the Soviet Union. Mr. Khrushchev probably understands as well as Mr. Dulles that whatever the future of weapons technology, for the time being the United States strategic bombers are a very important element in the world military situation.

(2) And almost as important, Mr. Khrushchev would seem to have every reason to suppose that he can gain many of his objectives, at least partly, by his present complex political offensive. It would seem most unlikely that he does not feel more than ever now that time is on his side.

That all this situation holds great dangers for the United States and the Free World would seem obvious.

The United States has no immediately discernible prestige item that it can use to overshadow the Soviet space satellite now in the skies. The dangers of Soviet missile development are very real and no man can predict when the West will catch up in that vital field of future military capabilities. Moreover, despite calculations on either side, the present Middle Eastern crisis could touch off a war that could spread very quickly.