

HOW WORLD REACTED TO SPUTNIKS

New York Times correspondents in foreign capitals were asked to assess reactions to Soviet satellite achievements and the effect on United States prestige. Their reports follow.

BRITAIN

LONDON, Nov. 9—The British were fascinated but not frantic after the launching of the second Soviet satellite.

The event was given fullest coverage in the press and on television and radio. But apart from infuriated dog lovers few Britons were shaken out of their normal attitudes by the event. In this, as in so many other cases, the Briton's willingness to accept calmly staggering new facts can be attributed to historical experience.

History has familiarized this country with situations in which unfriendly powers have made startling technical advances.

The present situation, although unwelcome, is not in fundamentals much different from that facing Britain twenty years ago after the rise of Hitler's Luftwaffe to a position of pre-eminence in Europe. British phlegm, which annoys so many politicians here and abroad, is a positive advantage in moments of crisis.

The initial impact of the Eisenhower speech was less than that of the Khrushchev speech. The text of the President's speech was not released to British newspaper and agencies until around 11 P. M. Thursday night, which meant that most newspapers were able to include the speech only in their later and smaller editions of Friday.

The Khrushchev speech, on the other hand, was available all day Wednesday and was widely played in both that afternoon's papers and in the morning papers of Thursday.

There is a disposition on the part of Britons to chuckle at the manner in which United States prestige has been bespattered by the stardust scattered by the two satellites. But the British do not doubt that in scientific competition between the United States and the Soviet Union the U. S. will win out.

Basically the British, the Government and people alike, see the second satellite as an opportunity and a challenge to Western science rather than as a dramatic reverse.

FRANCE

PARIS, Nov. 9—The French being human like other people, the news of Sputnik II containing the dog burst upon them with sensational effect.

The effect was probably not as sensational as that registered in the United States. While the French also have a missile program, they are not in competition with the Russians as the United States is.

Also the political crisis was still on, food prices have been rising and wage-earners are straining for pay rises. The preoccupation with these internal problems also blunted the effect

Comment on Soviet Launching Surprise

of the news. But all the same, it received banner play, shoving the political crisis to a secondary position on the front pages at least for one day.

The Communist paper L'Humanité, and presumably its faithful readers, crowed over this new victory of "Socialist science." But a lot of Frenchmen, if they admired the Soviet Union's prowess, seemed to feel disquiet. When the first sputnik was launched there was a tendency to feel that at last the high and mighty United States, that mecca of technical progress, had got its comeuppance. Things are a bit different this time. There has been a certain amount of sympathy for the United States' position, as if it

WESTERN VIEW



El Mundo, Puerto Rico

"Who will let them loose?"

was suddenly realized that, for better or for worse, the United States' position was also France's.

The fear that these two impressive demonstrations of Soviet power and scientific know-how would rally great masses of people to Moscow's side seems a bit exaggerated. Those already convinced that the future lies with the Soviet Union will be more convinced than ever. But there are signs, in France at least, that the sputniks have done the Atlantic Alliance some good by encouraging a tendency to lay aside past differences.

In this connection President Eisenhower's address Thursday, which received prominent front-page treatment here, gave the welcome impression that the United States was finally willing to take France and its other allies into more complete partnership on a stepped-up scientific research program. French leaders have been urging greater cooperation all along; the feeling here is that it took two sputniks to do the trick.

WEST GERMANY

BONN, Nov. 9—Sputnik II and the Soviet rocket parade across Red Square on Nov. 7

have played havoc with the German view of the cosmos.

The dictionary defines cosmos as "the world or universe as an embodiment of order and harmony." In the German cosmos there was only one star of the first magnitude—the United States. Another star of second magnitude but growing brighter was the Soviet Union.

Sputnik II and the rocket parade unsettled the heavenly order of German cosmography, "the science which describes and maps the main features of the heavens and earth."

This is no jesting matter because it is always dangerous to disturb the fixed ideas of people about the universe. Fixed ideas are the cotton wool in which individuals and nations find a comfortable nestling ground for their deep sleeps. The Germans had been nestling in an American universe.

If Sputnik I nudged the Germans in their sleep Sputnik II and the rocket parade shot them rudely out of their nest to contemplate a new heavenly order of two stars of the first magnitude. They are wondering today not only what happened but why it happened.

To the German, science plus industry equals real power. This theorem was proved long ago in this country and is one that is easily understood by any German with a high school education.

Photographs of Soviet rockets borne on tracked armored vehicles were published on the front pages of the German newspapers on the morning of Nov. 8. The same editions carried reports of President Eisenhower's address to the nation in which he promised a change in the rocket program and closer coordination of scientific research.

The Red Square rockets dominated the President's promises of things to come. In a competition between achievement and promise, the former is bound to win as even the most ingenious phrase makers are bound to admit.

The why of Soviet breakthrough is being asked by every literate German today. One of the most provocative answers was given in a newspaper cartoon. It showed a fashionably dressed American woman of the cocktail set pointing to a new automobile with its extended aileron rear fenders. A raggedy, booted, kerchiefed Russian peasant woman is pointing to Sputnik II in the skies. She says to the American lady: "But we have the sputnik."

EGYPT

CAIRO, Nov. 9—For dragoons and diplomats, clerks and high officials, the launching of the Soviet Union's new "dog star" was the main topic of conversation in Cairo this week.

Normally this teeming metropolis is a city whose people have a profound capacity for ignoring major world events. But the Soviet Union's success in putting two man-made satellites into outer space had a

sweeping impact that was political more than scientific.

For most Egyptians Soviet prestige soared to spectacular heights and that of the United States slipped back another notch or two.

Blazing red headlines splashed the news of Sputnik II across the front pages of the Arabic newspapers. Along with a display of straight news from Eastern and Western agencies came assertions that the United States and the Western world in general were "shaking with fear and dismay" over the Soviet success.

Launching of the second satellite only further confirmed the belief of those who follow President Nasser's ideas that "positive neutrality" (in which the West's share is made up mostly of opprobrium) was the only path.

The paper Al Akhbar said the Soviet success would "lead to a collapse of United States influence in Asia and Africa."

INDIA

CALCUTTA, Nov. 9—If the Russians were to announce that they have had a collective farm on Mars for the past year there would not be many people in this country who would doubt it.

That is one of the major results of Sputnik II. It has established the Soviet Union here as the leader in scientific achievement and there is not going to be much questioning in the future of the Russian's ability to make their achievements match their boasts.

Indian newspapers brought out their big headlines for Sputnik II. The story received splash display throughout the country, in English-language and Indian-language newspapers. It was treated for what it was, the biggest story of the year or perhaps of many years.

For the people of terribly backward and economically degraded countries such as India, there is bound to be a certain amount of satisfaction in the Russian achievement which has little to do with sympathy for communism.

In the West, there is a realization of what Soviet industrial achievement cost in human lives and destruction of civilization. But Indian leadership has failed to point out

these things to the people of the country.

It is not likely that these gaps in understanding will be bridged.

JAPAN

TOKYO, Nov. 9—News of Soviet achievements in earth satellites astounded the Japanese, for they had assumed the United States would be first to accomplish this major scientific breakthrough. Japan's mood today, with two Russian space vehicles circling the earth, is one of expectation that the United States will soon catch up with Russian advance and surpass its rival in the practical application of missile.

The speeches by Nikita S. Khrushchev and President Eisenhower during the week received equal news play but editorial writers were generally more sympathetic to the United States side in this exchange.

Editorial writers, radio and television panelists and other qualified commentators generally took the line that the Russians had got ahead of the United States because the Kremlin's authoritarian system has an advantage over the American democracy in directing a concentrated effort. That the United States has been badly outdistanced by Soviet science, at least for the time being, was accepted as a plain fact.

There was no doubt that the United States had taken a body blow in prestige. Temporarily at least, in Japanese eyes, the United States is the second military power in the world, and not the first. However, editorial writers generally hoped that the long-range implications of the Soviet satellite progress and the inevitable United States effort to catch up would turn both great powers away from militarism in politics.

Whether new advances in science will be utilized for peaceful purposes or for armaments was the main concern of all Japanese commentators. Meanwhile the Government of Premier Nobusuke Kishi has shown no disposition to pay attention to renewed leftist demands for a neutralist policy since the sputniks appeared.