

Clumsy Excuses

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(Vetrov commentary)

(Text) The world public is deeply concerned at the latest proof of how great the danger of an atomic disaster is in our time. And indeed a densely populated area near the McGuire base in New Jersey was on the verge of a terrible disaster on Tuesday, June 7, when something went wrong in the nuclear warhead of a Bomarc missile and the tail light in the explosive device burst into flame. As we all know, it isn't only U.S. territory where U.S. rockets with nuclear warheads are stockpiled, and U.S. bombers carrying atomic weapons are not only flying over U.S. territory.

I don't know who can say exactly how many lethal weapons have been brought to Britain from the United States, or who can guarantee that an atom bomb will not explode due to some flaw. And the more nuclear weapons that are stockpiled on the British Isles the greater the danger. There is only one way to eliminate this danger; nuclear weapons, their supply bases, and means of delivering these weapons should be destroyed as soon as possible. That is why the USSR spares no effort to have the disarmament program, and nuclear disarmament in the first place, put into practice.

The USSR's sincerity is confirmed by its latest disarmament program, which takes into account some of the Western proposals. But the Western delegates who are now meeting in Geneva together with representatives of the socialist countries to discuss this program are in no hurry even to study it in a businesslike way. The British delegate in the 10-nation committee, Ormsby-Gore, for instance, says that he can't say anything definite because he hasn't yet got the exact translation of the latest Soviet proposal from the Russians. How is one expected to characterize such arguments? And one wonders how long Ormsby-Gore is going to wait for the translation.

These clumsy Western subterfuges make one doubt whether the West really intends to get down in a serious and businesslike way to discussing a solution of the disarmament problem, which cannot be put off. The impression is that since such excuses as the absence of an English translation are used, the Western delegates, under cover of this verbal screen, aim at misleading the public. The Western ruling circles evidently want to intensify the arms race, the nuclear arms race in particular.