

MCGUIRE EXPLOSION SHOWS ROCKET DANGER

Berlin, Deutschlandsender in German to East and West Germany, June 9, 1960,
1700 GMT--L

(Text) The Pentagon is shocked. The official instruction to describe the rocket explosion at McGuire base in New Jersey as a harmless small chemical explosion came too late.

Attempts are now being made to blame those who disclosed the true events to the public too hastily. The police blame the Air Force, and the Air Force blames the police.

Unfortunately the small chemical explosion destroyed a concrete launching shelter with tremendous force and destroyed most of two others close by. Unfortunately the entire state of New Jersey had to be placed on an atomic alert because of this small chemical explosion. Unfortunately a panic developed in the nearby town. Unfortunately all approach roads and then the entire base of the 46th American rocket unit had to be evacuated. These are the facts about this small chemical explosion, as the Pentagon calls it--completely harmless of course--in the trigger mechanism of the Bomarc rocket. At the same time a small amount of radioactive material escaped, and this is admitted, while no one believes the transparent denial (several words indistinct).

Well, this (word indistinct) theory is not taken seriously by anyone, least of all by the American Defense Department itself, and not at all by the same institution in Bonn, for the people there are fully aware of the dangers of rocket explosions. And therefore the same shock effect as in the Pentagon led the (men in the Aermelkaserne?) to use the same miserable methods of hushing up and minimizing the catastrophe.

The press office of Strauss' ministry induced the press to say the explosion had not been very bad. The first, second, and third rocket battalions of the Bundeswehr have just been established in the face of fierce opposition from the people. New land for rocket training grounds has been acquired by trick and by force.

War minister Strauss is now in the United States to buy more atomic cigars. The plans have already been drawn up to create six rocket battalions with a total of 276 launching pads by the end of this year. And now something takes place. Everyone of course asks: Is it not possible that what has happened at McGuire can also occur here? In the Federal Republic aren't atomic rockets laid side by side and also piled on top of each other in the arsenals? Most of the depots are only a few kilometers from densely populated towns. A center of such depots is, for example, between Munich and Augsburg. Another huge atomic depot is in the Kusel area in Rhineland-Palatinate.

The Americans have established an underground headquarters for atomic air war in (word indistinct) and mines near Kaiserslautern.

The NATO airfields at (Hahn?) (Wunsbrueck?) and Bitburg in the Eifel serve as training centers for atomic weapons. That is why Bonn would like to prevent the population from seeing the beam in its own eye. But the danger is known, and it is also known that American spy planes have taken off from these atomic centers for flights over the Soviet Union. Defense Minister Malinovskiy has issued the unmistakable command: Should flights again be made over Soviet territory an atomic counterblow will be made against the bases from which such planes take off.

The consequences would be immeasurable, above all in West Germany. The people have taken this warning seriously. At public protest meetings and at discussion groups citizens of Frankfurt-on-Main, Darmstadt, Kassel, Offenbach, and (other towns?) have strongly protested against the misuse of the Rhein-Main airport. The West German journalist (Vigor Krausen?) writes in the Bonn AUSSENPOLITISCHE KORRESPONDENZ that the Federal Government must issue a clear statement similar to that made by the Norwegian foreign minister, a statement, however, (few words indistinct) which adds a West German contribution to disarmament that in this case can only be the dissolution of the rocket bases.