

'Common' Events Hold War Spectre

This is the first of a four-part series analyzing the Berlin crisis.

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

BERLIN (AP) — It was noon on a quiet day in West Berlin. A shabbily-dressed woman walked down Taunzien Strasse and looked into the window of a department store.

A radio announcer read the mid-day news.

A grey-haired man entered the Marienfelde refugee camp, just as some 300 persons do every day.

Common events. Hardly noticed.

But they contained the kind of cumulative explosive force that has resulted in Russia's Premier Khrushchev raising the spectre of a third world war over Berlin.

A DIFFERENT LIFE

The woman came from Communist East Berlin. What she saw in the store window made her think how much better life could be in the West, and she went home to tell her neighbors.

The radio announcer was broadcasting western news and ideas to the 18,000,000 people of surrounding East Germany.

The grey-haired man was an engineer, one of hundreds of thousands of professionals, technicians and skilled workers who have fled into West Berlin from East Germany.

To the East Germans, West Berlin stands as a symbol of hope.

To Khrushchev: "Berlin is a bone in my throat."

By ending the Allied occupation and turning West Berlin into a so-called free city, Khrushchev hopes to neutralize the metropolis.

But this he cannot do as long as divided Berlin is governed by the post-war four-power accords. These assure free movement between West Berlin and East Berlin.

West Berlin, linked to West Germany by one railroad and one highway under Soviet control, and three air corridors, lies 110 miles inside East Germany.

To understand its upsetting impact on the East Germans, take a tour of West Berlin. Then visit East Berlin.

Start on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfuerstendamm, the broad glittering boulevard lined with colorful sidewalk cafes and shop windows crammed with choice goods.

Driving past the magnificent new Hansaviertel residential district suddenly you come upon the Brandenburg Tor — gateway to East Berlin.

SUDDEN DRABNESS

The contrast is staggering as your car crawls past the green-uniformed people's police into the drab, bomb-shattered Communist capital.

There is little of the cheerful bustle of West Berlin. The grey, dirty walls of the buildings are decked with red banners bearing slogans: "Socialism triumphs."

The Reds promise that major reconstruction of East Berlin will begin next year.

The facades of East Berlin and West Berlin, however, do not reveal the most significant differences between the two cities.

The East German regime has put its short supplies of capital and structural steel into an impressive buildup of heavy industry, rather than into the reconstruction of its capital.

At the same time West Berlin has had the benefit of nearly \$1,000,000,000 in American aid. It is also heavily subsidized by the West German government with grants, low-interest loans, and certain tax exemptions.

RAIL CARRIERS

Canadian railways had 197,907 freight cars in service at the start of 1958, compared with 187,900 cars a year earlier.



FIREMEN HOLD TEST

Several members of the Montague Fire Department are seen standing in front of the new bumper which they had just put through a complete test. Members are left to right: Fire Chief Coffin, Leland Nelson, R. R. Arnold MacLure, Austin Fraser, Beck, Alan Nelson, Ken Clements, and Athol Dewar.

OTTAWA JOTTINGS

Prorogation By Dominion Day Is Best Prediction

By John A. Macdonald, M.P.

Many people who are interested in the work of the House of Commons have asked when the House will prorogue. This is always a difficult question to handle but a few days ago the Prime Minister outlined the principle items of government business which it is intended shall be produced this session.

There were a number of bills on the Order Paper and to these he added the following: "The Bill of Rights, a Bill to Amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, a Bill to Establish a National Energy Board, a Bill to Amend the Export Credits Insurance Act, a Bill to Provide Additional Grants to the Province of Newfoundland, an amendment to the Bretton Woods Agreement Act; bills respecting the superannuation of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and members of the Canadian forces; a Bill to Amend the Combines to the Criminal Code.

In the field of agriculture, amendments will be introduced to assist the provinces in implementing crop insurance, as well as a bill to extend and improve farm credit facilities, and a bill to allow veteran farmers to take greater advantage of modern agricultural practices will be introduced by way of amendment to the Veterans Land Act. In addition there will be, of course, the budget legislation and the usual measure respecting the financing of the Canadian National Railways. Consideration is also being given to certain other measures of lesser importance.

It will be seen from this lineup that a very heavy agenda remains to be considered. Earlier forecasts for a closing date pointed to the time of the Queen's visit late in June but now this would seem to be over optimistic. However, if the work of the House is well organized and the Opposition, and government members, not too talkative this legislative program could be completed before Dominion Day. Free Parliaments being what they are, however, it is extremely difficult to forecast with much firmness the actual closing date for this session.

FISHERIES PROSPECTS

While home for a quick check on various public works projects over the week-end I visited many of the harbours. In some, extreme ice conditions of the past winter had caused considerable damage while in others conditions were fairly good. It is an awkward time of the year to get public works repairs carried out since the ice has been gone only a short time and heavy equipment cannot be moved over the roads.

Most of the contracts for extensions or new landings and for dredging will be held off until the end of June in order not to interfere with the lucrative lobster fisheries. In my brief tour I talked to many fishermen and went out with several of them on their trial runs.

MORE BOATS

In most areas there were more boats than ever this year and they are hopeful of a good catch. A few claim that after a winter of heavy ice there is often more lobsters than usual whereas other fishermen discount this idea as being purely superstitious. It is noted that lobster prices on the mainland have been at record levels, and it is expected that they will be high in our province also.

As this is being written I know that the fishermen are working feverishly to get ready for the day this week when they will "run their lines." I wish I were home to participate in this event as I have on several other occasions. However, from our position here we can only hope that the men who are engaged in the hazardous and strenuous occupation of fishing will be amply rewarded this year for their arduous labors.

ECONOMIC PICTURE

Not to many days ago the unemployment figures, as compiled for the end of March, were submitted by the Minister of Labour, the Hon. Michael Starr. As in February the figures showed a SEAWAY OPENING downward trend.

Last week-end the actual opening of the seaway and power project on the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes took place. The official opening, of course, is scheduled for late June when a joint ceremony will be held at the Canadian entrance with Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower jointly participating in the grand event.

Behind the Department of Transport ice-breaker "D'Iberville," the first ships moved into the seaway last Saturday. On the lead ship were Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Transport Minister Hees, Hon. Lionel Chevrier-former Transport Minister and President of the Seaway Authority-members of the Senate and Parliament and other dignitaries.

Tolls will be charged on the ships using the seaway and it is the costs of this huge project. Eighty percent of the world's shipping can now travel to Toronto which can now be termed a "world port." This introduces a new era in water shipping for Canada and will also bring greatly increased power potential to that area and to New York and other eastern states.

Although Maritimers look rather askance at the effects the program may have on shipping in the eastern provinces it cannot be denied that the seaway will be of great assistance to the economic life of our country. It will probably take at least a year to properly assess this immense project.

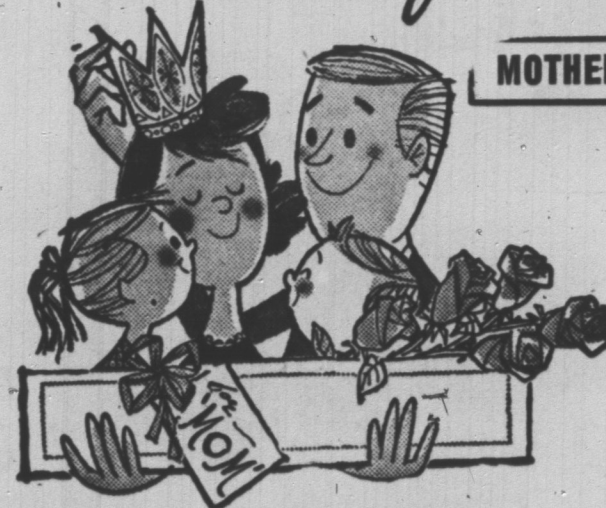
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AROUND THE WORLD? ZERMAT, Switzerland (Rescuers)—A man and a woman who vanished after setting out from Bern Sunday in a balloon have been found unhurt on a 12,000-foot Swiss glacier. They were seen by a pilot of the Swiss air mountain rescue service standing on the glacier beside the wreckage of their balloon.

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