

British Voice Alarm Over H-Bomb Tests

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LONDON, March 25 (A.—Brit-ain broke out today in a rash of hydrogen-bomb jitters.

Reports of the awesome and unexpected fury of America's hydrogen bomb test explosion in the Pacific March 1 prompted fresh demands in Parliament and the press for all-out diplomatic efforts to banish the threat of atomic war.

The Laborite London Daily Herald, in a rare front-page editorial, demanded that the United States call off any more hydrogen-bomb tests before it turns the Pacific into "a source of peril." It called on the British government to take the initiative in seeking international consultation "on all the problems involved for mankind in possession of the bomb."

"The Pacific is not an American lake," it said.

Reheated by Guardian

The influential, liberal Manchester Guardian also warped of the possible "most serious" consequences of further hydrogen-bomb tests.

Newspapers used "scare" headlines over President Eisenhower's news conference statement Wednesday that something must have happened at the March 1 explosion that surprised and astonished scientists.

In Parliament, Laborites have renewed their demands for some sort of fresh approach to

Russia. A few Conservatives also have asked questions along these lines.

Lord Salisbury, Britain's atomic chief, told the House of Lords last night the "hideous reality" of the hydrogen bomb makes necessary a live-and-let-live understanding between Russia and the West. He warned that no one could win an atomic war.

Other peers expressed similar fears. Lord Henderson, Laborite, proposed an "all-in" Europe security treaty which would recognize the continued existence of both the East's defense arrangements and the West's NATO alliance. Lord Salisbury said the government would be ready to study the idea.

Maps Portray Peril

Many papers carried round-ups of latest atomic and hydrogen-bomb developments throughout the world. Maps and diagrams spelled out for average Britons just how a single hydrogen bomb could obliterate or devastate much of their island homeland.

The science editor of London's liberal News Chronicle said the extended risk area now announced for future American H-bomb tests in the Pacific would cover territory equal to all the British Isles, half of France, all of Holland and Bel-

gium and Germany as far west as Frankfurt.

He added that "no means of controlling the hydrogen reaction can be foreseen."

The News Chronicle warned editorially that fear and despair over the hydrogen bomb may develop into a helpless apathy which might make atomic warfare "not only possible but inevitable." The newspaper referred to President Eisenhower's invitation to Russia to join in pooling atomic energy for peaceful uses but said "the time has now come to have done with the oblique and to go directly once again for the goal."

Might Kill All Humanity

The Daily Herald quoted an unnamed British atom scientist as saying it is theoretically possible to make a hydrogen bomb that would disperse sufficient radioactivity to kill all humanity. He added, however, that the bomb's immense size would make it impracticable "in any foreseeable future."

"But in my scientist's view," he was quoted as saying, "the Americans have now reached the stage at which they should remove their experiments far from any land or any shipping routes."

The Communist Daily Workers blared "H-blast got out of control." Alongside it quoted the demand of a Communist candidate in a parliamentary by-election: "Abolish every A-bomb."

Lord Beaverbrook's pro-

empire Daily Express front-paged the first of a day-by-day roundup report on "this stupendous problem—the H-bomb."

A "Point of No Return"

Dr. Donald Soper, president of Britain's Methodist Conference, who frequently espouses left-wing causes, issued a press statement calling on Christians everywhere to petition their governments to ban or abolish atomic and hydrogen bombs. He said, "I believe we are approaching in this atomic experiment a point of no return."

Much of Britain's "atomic uneasiness" followed last January's speech by United States Secretary of State John Foster Dulles announcing America's policy of instant and massive retaliation against aggression. Prime Minister Churchill himself sought to ease these fears by assuring the House of Commons that the United States would consult Britain before launching any atomic counter-attack from bases in Britain.