

PSYCHOLOGY

Study Minds To Check War

➤ YOU, and what is in your mind, are a part of a new effort to solve the vital, age-old problem of preventing war.

This newest project to combat wars of the future is being undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris. Piloting this UNESCO study of war prevention is an American psychologist, Dr. Otto Klineberg of Columbia University.

If you don't want war, you probably agree with most of the people in the world. But do you ask, "Will war come?" or even "When will war come?"

Dr. Klineberg cautions "People who are hopeless and apathetic about the future are doing nothing, just waiting for what may come because they feel helpless."

This feeling of helplessness "even affects men in high places who might be able to do something about it," he warns.

"Almost nobody," complains Dr. Klineberg, "is saying, 'Can we do anything to keep war from coming?'"

The psychologist explained that "a lot of science and common sense" is being used by UNESCO to tackle the problem of war. He described the UNESCO war prevention study as a guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on Adventures in Science, heard over the Columbia network.

You are a part of this study because "leaders must have followers" and "people

as well as politicians and generals are important" in war.

"We must know what is in the minds of people as well as the minds of the leaders," emphasizes Dr. Klineberg.

To find out about that, UNESCO is sending specialists in many different fields into different countries to make studies of what it is in the way of life that makes one nation different from another. Scientists from UNESCO are going into small communities in France, India and Australia to study the people in these different nations.

Tourists, Dr. Klineberg believes, can help solve international problems.

"If we could get enough people to travel in other lands," he speculates, "they would understand that other people are different and why they are different, and that in itself might develop friendly relations."

Public opinion surveys of attitudes toward foreigners are being used, and even children are quizzed, by using sentence completion games to reveal their attitudes.

Other studies underway or planned will include legal systems, textbooks, newspapers, magazines and movies.

From this mass of data, scientists will get a better picture of what the people of a nation think of the peoples of other nations. And this, Dr. Klineberg points out, will provide a good start for improving international relations.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1949

portance) to spare the outlay for spraying machinery and chemicals when spraying will not be necessary. (There's no use shooting at an enemy that isn't there.)

Of the 15 articles in this final number, eight have to do with plant diseases and their causes, one with an animal malady, two with the newer insect sprays, and one each with molds on wood, seed formation in sorghum, tobacco seedlings and the cooking of potatoes. If there's any boondoggling here it is difficult to detect.

Already letters of protest over the demise of the Journal have begun to roll in, and there is some discussion of the possibility of a resurrection. At best, however, publication could not be resumed for at least another year. And in the meantime there is an empty spot in the national scientific information front, with nothing to fill it.

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SAFETY

Highway Safety Group Asks For Vehicle Improvements

➤ CONTINUED improvement in motor vehicle brakes, headlights, driver vision, directional signals, tires, wheel rims and bumpers was urged by the President's Highway Safety Conference. These items are essentials in highway safety, the preliminary Action Program of the conference stated.

Wanted also is the modernization of principal streets and highways. To them should be applied the standards, policies and guides developed by the American Association of State Highway Officials, the U. S. Public Roads Administration and other appropriate agencies. Secondary roads should be improved to standards adequate for safe year-round use.

Other recommendations in the Action Program include the elimination of railway-highway grade crossings on priorities determined on the basis of hazard and economy of operation. Adequate protection should be provided where grade-separation structures are not feasible.

Highways to be safe for year-round travel are best if they have skid-resistant surfaces, smooth, usable shoulders and adequate drainage. With highways used by pedestrians, sidewalks are desirable. Highway lighting is a safety measure on main urban streets and on the more hazardous sections of rural traffic routes.

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AGRICULTURE

Suspend Research Journal

➤ ANOTHER casualty produced by an "economy" drive has come to light in the forced suspension of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, the last issue of which has just been distributed. The cover bears the terse message: "A shortage of operating funds has forced the discontinuance of this journal. This is the final number."

The JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,

which the U. S. Department of Agriculture has published for a good many years (the current volume is numbered 78), does not get read by many farmers. It is primarily a publication for scientists; but for intensely practical scientists. It might be likened to a military publication that does not get read by anybody but commissioned officers, but which does give majors and colonels and generals indispensable information on how to fight. The information in its undisguisedly technical language eventuates in sprays that kill bugs and check disease fungi, in better ways to plant seed and fertilize the soil, in less wasteful and more profitable methods of getting products to market.

Lead-off article in this swan-song number, for example, is a detailed description of a method for forecasting the likelihood of late-blight disease outbreaks in potatoes and tomatoes, such as scoured the eastern part of the country last year. Application of this method should enable farmers to prepare spraying campaigns when they are likely to be needed, and (of equal im-

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Saturday, August 13, 3:15 p. m., EDST

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Arthur Goldschmidt, special assistant to the Secretary, Department of Interior, will discuss "International Cooperation in Natural Resources."