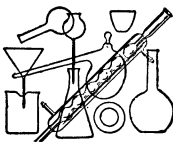


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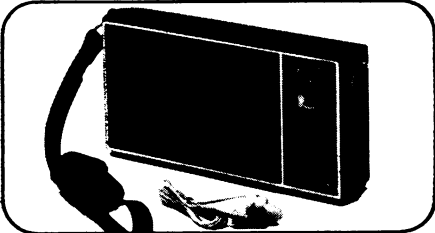
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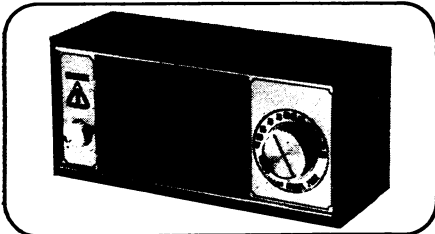
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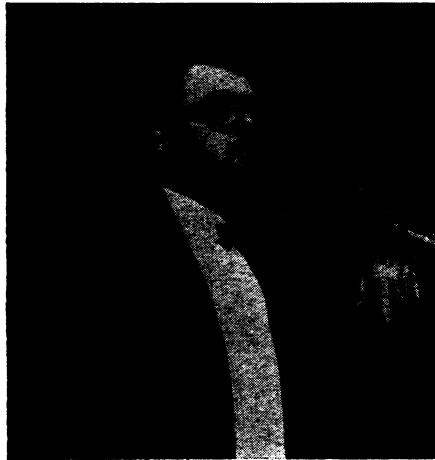
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284/science news/vol. 94/21 september 1968

Gyorgy, intellectuals in the more liberal nations began discussing a political vision which would merge national interests of independent states with the demands of a Marxist utopia and internationalism.

The talk was coming from Communist theoreticians and was being discussed in the press, says Dr. Gyorgy. "In meetings such as this, very interesting and searching papers would be presented on things to come."

Although most of the talk was highly theoretical and often vague, this future utopia was taking shape as a socialist commonwealth, according to Dr. Gyorgy. It proceeded on the assumption



Paul Conklin

Laird: pan-Slavic movement a dream.

that socialism would remain in Eastern Europe, but in the form of a mild, non-police state with some type of federation.

Coexistent with this utopian idea and rivaling it was the resurgence of romantic nationalism, a feeling that almost completely denies the 20th century. Czechoslovaks, for instance, were recalling their culture and heroes of centuries past. They were issuing new stamps depicting the 18th and 19th centuries and evoking the pre-Hitler, pre-Stalin era in religion, language, music and literature. Moreover, the Czechs irritated a Russian sore by referring to themselves as "western Slavs," and culturally superior to eastern Slavs.

Russians have also looked traditionally to the West as culturally superior, and this piece of snobbery hit hard.

Such national nostalgia could be projected into the future in a Marxist framework; the two are not necessarily exclusive, Dr. Gyorgy points out. "But now all bets are off," he says. Any movement in that direction depends on the withdrawal of the Soviet military.

"Seven years of German Nazism and 23 years of Russian domination should have taught these people a lesson. But whether they have learned enough to hang together, no one knows."

INFLUENZA

Girding against a new strain

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been inoculated against flu. But flu comes in many kinds, and the current vaccine—although pointed at several types of viruses—has little effect against a newcomer that has afflicted at least 400,000 persons in Hong Kong.

The Asian city was the source of the 1957 epidemic in the United States. Fears that it may provide a springboard for another one have caused the Public Health Service to ask eight pharmaceutical companies to begin production of a specialized vaccine.

On September 4 the PHS advisory committee on immunization practices met at the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Ga., and amended its spring recommendations. Last May there seemed little likelihood of an epidemic during 1968-69 except on the Pacific Coast. In 1967 all except four states—Oregon, California, Idaho and Nevada—had had outbreaks of influenza-like illnesses, and epidemics generally run in cycles.

This is not the scheduled year, but the threat is emerging.

Since the new vaccine cannot possibly be ready for public distribution before late fall or early winter, the high-risk population, the old people and the chronically ill, are advised to get the presently available vaccine. When the new vaccine is produced, they should be the first to receive it.

The U.S. armed forces all over the world as well as American civilians abroad will be given the new Asian flu vaccine as soon as it is ready.

Fewer than 25 deaths are reported in the summer Hong Kong epidemic; the Public Health Service does not anticipate serious cases—but there could well be millions of sick people worldwide.

So far no cases have been reported in the United States, but considering the amount of travel between Hong Kong and this country, it is expected that the strain will jump the ocean.

For the production of the new vaccine, the Division of Biologics Standards of the National Institutes of Health has provided seed virus from the new Hong Kong strain to Parke, Davis & Company, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Wyeth Laboratories, Lederle Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Pitman-Moore, National Drug Company and Chas. Pfizer & Co. Inc.

The companies estimate from three to six weeks will be necessary to develop the new vaccine, but the Public Health Service requires three months of testing after that.

The peak of the flu season is between January and March.