

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientist Refused Passport

University of Rochester physicist is denied passport for a trip to India to study cosmic rays. State Department says trip contrary to best interests of the country.

► THE State Department has denied a passport to Dr. Bernard Peters, University of Rochester physicist, to go to India to do basic research on cosmic rays.

Mrs. Ruth Shipley, head of the passport division of the State Department, stated that the action was taken because Dr. Peters' trip to India would be "contrary to the best interests of this government." Dr. Peters worked for the atomic bomb project during the war and, a year and a half ago, was a witness before the House Un-American Activities Committee. At that time he declared under oath that he was not and never had been a member of the German or American or any communist party.

Dr. Alan Valentine, president of the University of Rochester, backed up Dr. Peters. After saying that he had conducted a personal investigation "at high government levels" into the Peters case, Dr. Valentine declared: "From that investigation nothing has emerged which in my opinion should impair our confidence in Dr. Peters as a scientist, a professor or an American citizen. He continues a member of the university faculty in full good standing."

Dr. Peters, who was sent to the Dachau concentration camp early in the Hitler regime and came to this country after he escaped, is known by his fellow physicists as a brilliant specialist in cosmic rays. He had been invited to go to India on a six-week cosmic ray project by the Tata Institute of India. Cosmic rays come into our world from somewhere in the universe and, in the study of these rays, scientists can gain more knowledge of what our universe is like.

Other physicists were looking forward eagerly to the results of Dr. Peters' six-week trip to India to give them another important link in our knowledge. The Office of Naval Research, with which the University of Rochester has the contract under which Dr. Peters would have gone to India, had already shipped \$12,000 worth of equipment for the project.

India was chosen because the earth's magnetic field affects the composition of cosmic rays striking various parts of the earth. In the latitude of India can be found the kind of cosmic rays Dr. Peters wanted to study.

Dr. Valentine declared that "all of the work he would have done in India is of an open and wholly non-secret nature."

University officials are known to be determined not to send any other physicist in Dr. Peters' place, preferring to abandon the contract for this particular project.

In a letter to Secretary of State Dean

Acheson after his application was turned down, Dr. Peters wrote:

"I have been completely unsuccessful in learning the nature of the charges which in the opinion of the government justified the treatment which I have been accorded. Both my own efforts in this direction and those undertaken by the administration of this University have been entirely fruitless."

"Of all the problems which the ambiguous attitude of the government has created," he wrote Secretary Acheson, "I consider the effect on my children to be the most serious one. They have been growing up in an atmosphere of secret dossiers, tapped telephones and incredible slanders against their family without any means of combatting them."

Dr. Valentine concluded his statement by saying: "The atmosphere and procedures in these matters in Washington are at present peculiar. But we note that a man's reputation and career have been greatly threatened and perhaps even ruined without his being given an opportunity to hear the grounds for such action, to identify and face his accusers and to offer his defense. It was my impression that our government

protected its citizens against such practice. In this case the citizen appears to need protection from his own government.

"Consequently we do not regard this case as closed, and we shall continue to inquire as best we can into the status of Dr. Peters and the status of American justice."

Dr. Peters stated he would make re-application to the State Department in September.

"At that time of the year," he explained, "the cosmic rays to be found near the magnetic equator will be the kind I want to study."

However, a State Department spokesman said any new application Dr. Peters makes will be considered and a passport will be granted if he can show that it would not be contrary to the best interests of this government.

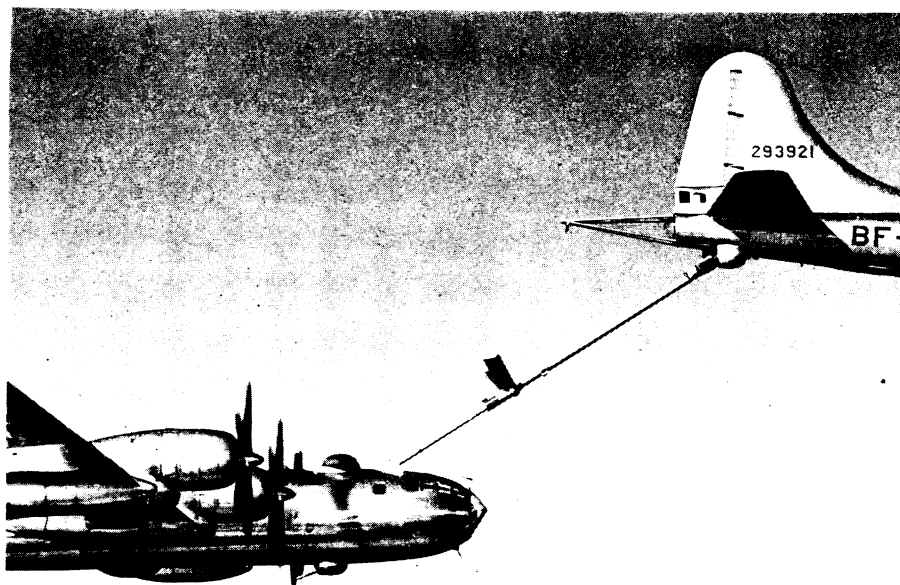
Dr. Peters said that he also wanted to re-apply because that action might provide an opportunity to clear up what he considers to be a blot upon his reputation. He said that he would be willing to answer any questions the State Department cared to put to him.

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AERONAUTICS

Details of In-flight Refueling System Revealed

► WRAPS on the Boeing-developed device to feed fuel from a flying tank plane to another plane in the air were removed in Seattle, Wash., at least in part. It is a development that will greatly increase the



GAS STATION IN THE CLOUDS—The B-29 tanker aircraft, above and to right, is pumping aviation gasoline at high speed to a new Boeing B-50D Superfortress medium bomber through the Flying Boom. Small surfaces known as "ruddevators" control the boom from side to side and up and down and may be operated in all kinds of weather.