

PSYCHOLOGY

What Does Stalin Propose?

Psychologists differ in their interpretation of the meaning of Stalin's proposal for a meeting between himself and President Truman.

► IS STALIN'S proposal for a meeting between himself and President Truman a hope for breaking up the ice of the cold war? Or is it a clever political move designed for propaganda effect on the Scandinavian countries? Psychologists, like the public, have differing opinions.

Psychologically, there would be advantages in having the two top men in Russia and the United States meet together on an informal basis. Former President Roosevelt saw those advantages and used them very successfully.

Any emissary of either the United States or Russia going to a meeting must go with a set policy to which he is in duty bound to stick. Even Vishinsky, one psychologist pointed out, could not afford to face Stalin if he backed down from the position settled upon in advance. Stalin, himself, would not be so handicapped; he would be free to alter his position if necessary.

And it is much easier, it was pointed out, for individuals to come to an agreement, or at least to take steps approaching it, if they are meeting informally. In any formal meeting of an institution such as the United Nations assembly, individuals are hampered in expressing themselves freely and in changing their positions.

There are two ways of looking at the cold war. One is that the whole thing is planned as a long-scale offensive. Those who hold this view see the Stalin peace proposal as just another move to stall for time while the Communist gains in China are consolidated and fitted into the general pattern.

The timing is right to serve in the psychological offensive to prevent the Scandinavian countries from signing the North Atlantic agreement. Since the days of Lenin the Russians have had a single inflexible aim—the victory of the World Revolution,

it is pointed out. Although what they do varies from year to year and from day to day, each action must be suited to the same inflexible purpose.

Other psychologists are skeptical that human behavior can be so consistent and due to such foresight. It is an over-simpli-

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Subatomic Merry-go-round

► A SUBATOMIC merry-go-round in which an electric current runs round and round the heart of the atom is described in the fifth semiannual report of the Atomic Energy Commission. This new evidence of what goes on in the heart, or nucleus, of the atom comes from measurement at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago of the magnetic moments of two unusual varieties of elements. These were recently made available in quantities large enough for study.

The elements are heavyweight hydrogen 3, also known as tritium, and lightweight helium 3. Each of these varieties has a magnetic moment about 10% higher than would be expected from atomic theory. Since magnetism is closely related to an electric current, scientists believe they now have a clue to how protons and neutrons in the heart of the atom pass an electric

fied explanation of the cold war. Much more likely, they feel, is that one action leads to reprisals and that in turn to counter-action in a spiral. If you see it in this light, you may think of Stalin's proposal as indicating his realization that he has gotten himself in deeper than he intended to and wants to find a graceful way out.

Hope for success in future negotiations with Stalin is seen by some in the fact that although the basic difference between the U. S. and the U.S.S.R. is over ideas and ideals, the controversies so far have not been ideological discussions. They have been over very specific practical matters for which, theoretically at least, some mutually agreeable solution could be found.

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charge back and forth between them. Other evidence has indicated that they do.

If the electric current coursing around the heart of the atom is thought of as the merry-go-round, the charge could be the brass ring.

The rider snatches it from the post. In this case the post is inside the circle, in the nucleus of the atom. The post, losing its charge, becomes the "proton". At another part of the circle the rider drops the ring into the basket. Here regaining the ring restores a charge to the inner particle. It is now a "neutron".

How the charges are shifted around inside the nucleus is unknown, but the current in its circular course keeps changing the state of charge on the particles the physicist can measure.

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AERONAUTICS—PHOTOGRAPHY

Airborne Dark Room

► AIRBORNE photographic laboratories, equipped with a new processing machine capable of turning out 20,000 complete prints in a day, are promised for quick work in forward military areas. The complete, compact dark room would occupy the detachable fuselage of a Fairchild C-120, a version of the Flying Boxcar.

This type of plane has been compared with the modern truck-trailer from which the cargo carrier is quickly detached from the power unit. However, it is not a trailer. The cargo body is attached tightly in place snugly under the special plane itself, the built-in body of which is entirely for power and crew. The plane can land the cargo body wherever wanted, and then take off to pick up another body, or to travel to where needed without a cargo fuselage.


Only one of these so-called photo multi-processors, which uses assembly line methods of producing prints, has as yet been

built. It is at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, O., and was built for the Air Force by Technical Service, Inc., Plymouth, Mich. When assembled for use, it is 31 feet long, 17 inches wide, and approximately five feet high. The device is made up of separate units which contain previewer, printer, developer, spray rinse, hypo bath, wash tanks and infra-red radiation air drier.

In printing, the processed aerial strip film is fed into one end of the machine. Movement of the negatives and dodging, which is achieved with the help of 24 lights, is operated manually. Paper advances automatically as the negatives are moved forward through the various chemicals and wash tanks. At the end of the multiprocessor, film or finished photographs come out again, the film ready for storage and the paper already cut into individual prints.

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