

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
FEB 3 1965

Sanitized - Approved For Release

STATINTL

U.S. Rejects Atomic Claim by Indonesia

BY PHILIP DODD

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Feb. 2—United States officials today dismissed as sheer puffery a claim by Indonesia that it would detonate an atomic bomb in October.

The officials said that Indonesia, which recently quit the United Nations, does not have the know-how or facilities for making a nuclear weapon.

The director of the Indonesian army arsenal, Brig. Gen. Hartono, said today that 200 Indonesian scientists are working on the country's first atomic bomb and promised a surprise on the country's armed forces day in October.

Trying to Impress World

"It could be that the general merely is trying to impress the world with his country's growth," an American official said.

Another official said that Hartono's claim could be put in the same category as the recent announcement that Indonesia planned to orbit its first astronaut in 1968.

As for Hartono's claim that 200 scientists were working on an atomic bomb, officials doubted whether the country has 200 persons with advanced degrees in physics.

Indonesia put an American-built nuclear reactor into operation last October at the Institute of Technology in Bandung. But it is a small, 100-kilowatt apparatus designed for research and is incapable of producing fissionable materials in sufficient quantities to make a bomb, officials said.

Sold to Indonesia

The Bandung reactor was sold to Indonesia by the Gen-

eral Atomics division of the General Dynamics corporation, with the United States government putting up \$350,000 of the project's cost under the atoms-for-peace program. The reactor is producing isotopes for medical research.

A Russian-built reactor is being assembled in Surpong, Indonesia, but is not expected to go into operation until late 1967. It is in about the same class as the reactor in Bandung, according to information supplied to the Atomic Energy commission.

The fuel element for the American reactor in Bandung was supplied by the Atomic Energy commission under an agreement providing for periodic inspection by American technicians. No inspection has been necessary because the reactor "went critical" less than four months ago, an official said.

CPYRGHT

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200320040-4