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Title: THE HYDROGEN BOMB by N. Rodin (USSR; US)

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"The Hydrogen Bomb"
 by N. Rodin
 Answers to the question of reader

K. Tkachenko ~~██████████~~

"At last a weapon has been found which can decide with lightning speed the outcome of any war and make war itself impossible..." Thus did clamoring American observers elucidate on the consequences of the explosion of the first atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

The explosion of the bomb was accompanied by an unprecedented explosion of publicity and uproar about the new American "miracle." "The city of Hiroshima was erased from the face of the earth... The whole population of the city suffered in some degree from the atomic explosion... Those who were not killed by the bomb were either burned by the flash of the explosion or affected by strange severe ailments which resulted in inevitable death..." Readers of American newspapers were bombarded by such deceiving headlines.

The explosion of the second atom bomb over Nagasaki added still more oil to the flames of this hysteria. Military observers across the ocean concluded that "the atomic bomb in the hands of the Americans deprived Japan of any chance of winning..." But those who soberly judge war and know what and who decide its outcome, held different opinions. Even Churchill was forced to say, after the explosion of the atomic bomb, that "before the Allies there are still months of difficult war." And this would have been so, even with the atomic bomb, if the decisive blow had not been struck by the Soviet Army in Manchuria.

Technology by itself, no matter how "miraculous," has never decided

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and cannot decide the outcome of war. The Italians with their technology took a very long time to conquer the extremely backward Abyssinians. When the Swedish engineer Nobel invented dynamite, many "specialists" asserted that this new agent could quickly destroy any army. It is well known that dynamite has not brought the expected change in the conduct of war.

The "miracle" of military technology which the Hitler army turned on our country did not bring victory. The outcome of the past war was decided by the people -- the inventors and builders of weapons and military machines and Soviet fighting people whose spirit made technology itself animated and invincible.

But ideas of deciding the outcome of war by various "miracles" of science and technology still prevail over the sensible ideas of other military theoreticians and practical workers. Publicity about the uranium atomic bomb has blinded the consciousness of millions of people in the last four years. How much ink, paper, printer's ink, energy, work, and fantasy has been expended in this publicity! Newspapers and radios have spent so much time hammering into the heads of simple people ideas that "America owns a secret weapon which assures her domination of the world..., there is no salvation on earth from the atomic bomb..., the atomic bomb is able to pierce through the earth's surface..."

The atomic bomb has given rise to atomic blackmail, war hysteria, and atomic diplomacy which tries to intimidate us and the countries of Peoples' Democracy by the transoceanic "atomic secret," to compel us to submit to the will of the transoceanic imperialists. But this blackmail

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policy was bankrupted earlier than was expected by those who thought that America was the only possessor of the secret of the atomic bomb.

On 25 September of last year the whole world was informed by a TASS communique that scientists of the USSR had also discovered the secret of atomic energy, that our country possessed the atomic weapon. A short time later, A. Ya. Vyshinskiy announced from the tribune of the United Nations Assembly that "the Soviet Union is using atomic energy in the interests of the people's economy..."

Everyone remembers the consternation which seized the "atom businessmen," the warmongers, when like a bolt from the blue this communique hit them. Only shortly before this, the "famous specialist on questions of Soviet industry," Ellsworth Raymond, declared: "The Soviet Union will not be able to build an atomic weapon before 1954... Nothing hinders American diplomacy in carrying out its policy..."

The whole world knew the results of this shamefully collapsing policy. But the atomic blackmailers would not be quieted. They rushed headlong into still more unbridled blackmail. They decided to throw up a new atomic buraboo. Truman, having submitted to the bosses of the trusts who produce atom bombs, made the statement at the end of January that "the Atomic Energy Commission literally the Commission for Internal Control over Atomic Energy has been ordered to begin work on the production of a 'superbomb.'"

Atomic hysteria then rose to new heights. Newspapers and radio again began to deafen Americans with shrieking headlines: "Four billion dollars for the hydrogen bomb...; America will rule with the absolute weapon...; Part of the sun will artificially be brought down to earth...; All life

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will be turned into ashes...; The superatomic bomb means the end of the world." All this excelled even the delirium of the late U.S. Secretary of Defense Forrestal who became insane and proposed the establishment of several artificial moons around the earth for "atomic bombardment" of the Soviet Union.

More sober persons correctly decided that American businessmen had stirred up atomic hysteria in order to increase still more the military budgets of America and the Marshallized Countries and to receive superprofits.

There are no "superatomic bombs" in America. "All this deafening clamor," said one of these observers, "is produced on credit, we might say, at the expense of the future." And only today some of the most prominent American scholars, discussing this very "hydrogen bomb" in the magazine United States News and World Report, say: "Theoretically speaking it may be possible to create such a bomb. But whether it can practically be made and exploded, no one today can truthfully say for certain."

But these are not the only doubts. Americans who have not yet lost their soberness of thought, remember the disgraceful collapse of those who believed that only America had mastered atomic energy. Some 1,500 American scientific workers sent to Truman a declaration that they consider the idea of a monopoly of the "hydrogen bomb" if it is made, a pure illusion. In February, 12 scientists, who played a leading role in the production of the atomic bomb, sent a statement to the U.S. government in which they strongly asserted that "America will not be able to monopolize the mastery of a superatomic bomb. Russia, of course, will also master it."

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Still more decisively and definitively did Senator MacMahon, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, express himself: "Russia destroyed our atomic monopoly earlier than we could expect. She will destroy our monopoly in the field of the superbomb just as quickly, if not more so." The well-known town crier of American reaction and imperialism, the journalist [Walter] Lippman, is becoming more and more despondent. "There is no more fatal mistake," he warned Truman and Acheson, "than to suppose that the 'superbomb' restores the equilibrium of strength which was destroyed in September 1949 and on which was based our foreign policy... The monopoly on which we depended before September has disappeared forever." Other prominent observers came to the same conclusion. A leading American physicist, Bethe [Bethe] in the article said frankly that "the superbomb is not only not ready, but it will take at least three years to make clear the possibility of preparing it."

Seconding these serious voices, Senator Millard Tydings, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Armed Forces, recently appealed to Truman to "undertake negotiations with the Soviet Union in order to secure a peaceful agreement on an acceptable basis and to avert a still more terrible war...." And some observers for British newspapers, the Manchester Guardian for instance, have tried to make the atomic blackmailers see reason.

But the rulers of America, ^{reflecting the attitude of the} ~~living up to the name~~ "Missouri mule," continue to stand firm. Truman and Acheson refuse every proposal which will not accept the notorious Baruch plan as a basis for negotiations. This would mean establishment of a world trust for production of atomic energy headed by American "atomizers" — the "controllers" of production of atomic

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energy. No country which respects its own sovereignty and independence and effectively protects its own interests will submit to what, in its broadest sense, amounts to a second edition of the "Marshall Plan."

The Soviet Union, having mastered atomic energy, has strongly declared and continues to declare that it has not changed its point of view on the question of prohibition of atomic weapons. This viewpoint is a decisive, consistent defense of peace.

"Every type of blackmailer," said V. M. Molotov, "was intimidating us yesterday with the atom bomb. Today they intimidate us with the so called 'hydrogen bomb' which does not yet exist. They would not have boasted so, if they had managed to remember that while they were busy with blackmail on the basis of a monopoly of the atomic bomb, the Soviet peoples, as is well known, were not wasting time but were mastering the secret of production of atomic energy and the atom bomb. Only fools, like one minister who went out of his head [Forrestal], can indulge in recklessly calculating the intimidation of the Soviet Union and bewilder their people with publicity of all kinds of aggressive plans." The time is long gone when the head of the British government, Lord Beaconsfield, could with impunity employ blackmail in addressing Tsarist Russia.

The policy of blackmail, including atomic blackmail, refusal to compete peacefully with the Soviet Union, and war unleashed by blind, reckless reaction will produce with unprecedented strength an explosion of revolt among the peoples. This explosion will sweep imperialism and the warmongers from the face of the earth.

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The inventors of the "hydrogen bomb" should recall the whole history of blackmail and intimidation of our country by the various "horrors" of military technology. They would find it especially useful to remember today, ^{on} the fifth anniversary of Victory Day, the fate of Hitler Germany, of Hitler himself, ^{and of} the executors of his will who blindly believed in their military technology, and in German "miracles." Where are these "miracles" today?

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