RUSSIAN ROCKET STORY:

What's new from the Kremlin? Sputniks One and Two are chasing each other merrily round the earth; everyone's keeping a weather eye on the moon, in case it suddenly sprouts a few more craters. Ever since the first man-made satellite shook the world with its technical _and_ military implications, there's been a very cheerful air about Khrushchev. He tells the West: "Just keep looking. We've plenty more up our sleeve"

Persistent rumours have named the moon - a quarter of a million miles away - as the next target. Why the moon? There are no Hungarians there!

This year, Russia celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of an early prophet of space travel - Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, seen in these old newsreel shots. Tsiolkovsky wrote many important papers on aeronautics and jet propulsion; but seeing further, he wrote: "Man will not remain eternally on the earth, but in his quest for light and space he will penetrate, timidly at first, beyond the limits of the atmosphere and will later conquer all the space around the Sun".

Even Tsiolkovsky didn't foresee that the pioneers of space travel would be dogs. These are the first pictures of Russia's space dogs - huskies of the same tough breed as Laika, the passenger in Sputnik the Second. Several of them have already been rocketed to tremendous altitudes, and recovered safely by parachute. Specially trained to travel in these flying dog-kennels, they have made their strange journeys both singly and in pairs. And now for a dog-carrying rocket actually taking off.

"Let us have friendly competition in space travel", sayd Mr. Khrushchev. "Let us have a Commonwealth of Sputniks" Fine words; but the free world wants stronger evidence of a change of heart - for a rocket that can carry a dog can carry an H-Bomb. Meanwhile, back to earth comes at least one Russian with peaceful intentions - one of the patient space-huskies. Next stop - perhaps - the moon,
But if you don't mind, not this chap. He's very keen just now, to be told, where's the nearest tree!