

FRANCE BECOMES WORLD'S FOURTH NUCLEAR POWER

Three nations have had the knowledge and equipment to explode atomic weapons. Deserts of three continents and a remote area of the Pacific have been the testing grounds for nuclear blasts set off by the United States, Britain and Russia. Now France becomes the world's fourth nuclear power. In Algeria, a sector of the vast Sahara Desert serves as France's experimental center. Strict security prevails in the shaded area, where the buildings and personnel are located. Facing them, in a radius of more than 600 miles, is virtually nothing but uninhabited wasteland. An ideal setup for maintaining security, the French point. At Regga, preparations for the first blast proceed according to schedule, despite a lack of enthusiasm shown by the other three nuclear powers, and heated protests from several African countries. No nuclear device has ever been exploded in Africa before, and, as far as is known, the nuclear Big Three have, by agreement, held no tests since 1958. France, which is not a party to current negotiations on test explosions, does not consider herself bound by those talks. Consequently, France goes ahead. From this moment France is stronger and prouder, President Charles de Gaulle declares in Paris. The blast is a small one by advanced nuclear standards. Nevertheless, the French see in it a major achievement.

CAMERA ON KHRUSHCHEV IN INDIA

Two months after President Eisenhower's visit, India welcomes Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Besides Prime Minister Nehru, U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and other diplomats greet the Russian leader, and all the traditional tokens of hospitality are bestowed. The crowds are not as big as those that greeted Eisenhower, but then, Khrushchev has been here before -- a little over four years ago, with his former friend, ex-Premier Bulganin. At the Presidential Palace in New Delhi, Khrushchev is guest at a reception. Addressing Parliament, he praises India's neutrality and Soviet progress. Khrushchev is carrying his message to four neutral Asian countries.

WORLD'S BIGGEST BLIMP SUFFERS A MISHAP

What was the world's largest blimp lies like a limp bag on the tarmac at the Naval Air Station in Weymouth, Massachusetts. The lighter-than-air craft suffered a devastating mishap while being towed to its hanger. A gust of wind blew it against a protruding part of the hangar, ripping the casing, and the blimp's gondola crashed to the ground as helium gas escaped. Sailors fold up the remains. The damage runs to several million dollars. Like Humpty Dumpty, it won't be so easy to put together again. The one fortunate fact is that no one was injured.