

70 are ready for A-bomb

United Press International
SYDNEY, Australia — About 70 people who believe the Soviet Union will launch a nuclear war this month have settled into a remote "doomsday city," complete with bunkers, to wait out the attack.

The group, which includes businessmen, pharmacists and teachers, is housed on a remote 19,770-acre ranch near Bourke, 400 miles northwest of Sydney in New South Wales.

The doomsday fugitives paid \$575 each for what they believe will be a chance at survival after a Communist nuclear attack, the Sydney Sun-Herald said Sunday.

Their village and bunker complex, sustained by provisions intended to last for a year, was sponsored by 41-year-old Melbourne businessman John Strong, whose 1973 book, "The Doomsday Globe," predicted an imminent nuclear attack.

Strong's calculations for the nuclear catastrophe are founded on parts of the Bible and his own computations based on the size of the great pyramids in Egypt, the newspaper said.

Strong said the book of Daniel in the Old Testament enabled him to fix the time of a global catastrophe at October, 1978. His own figures, the result of a complicated mathematical process, indicate the holocaust will occur no later than 1979.

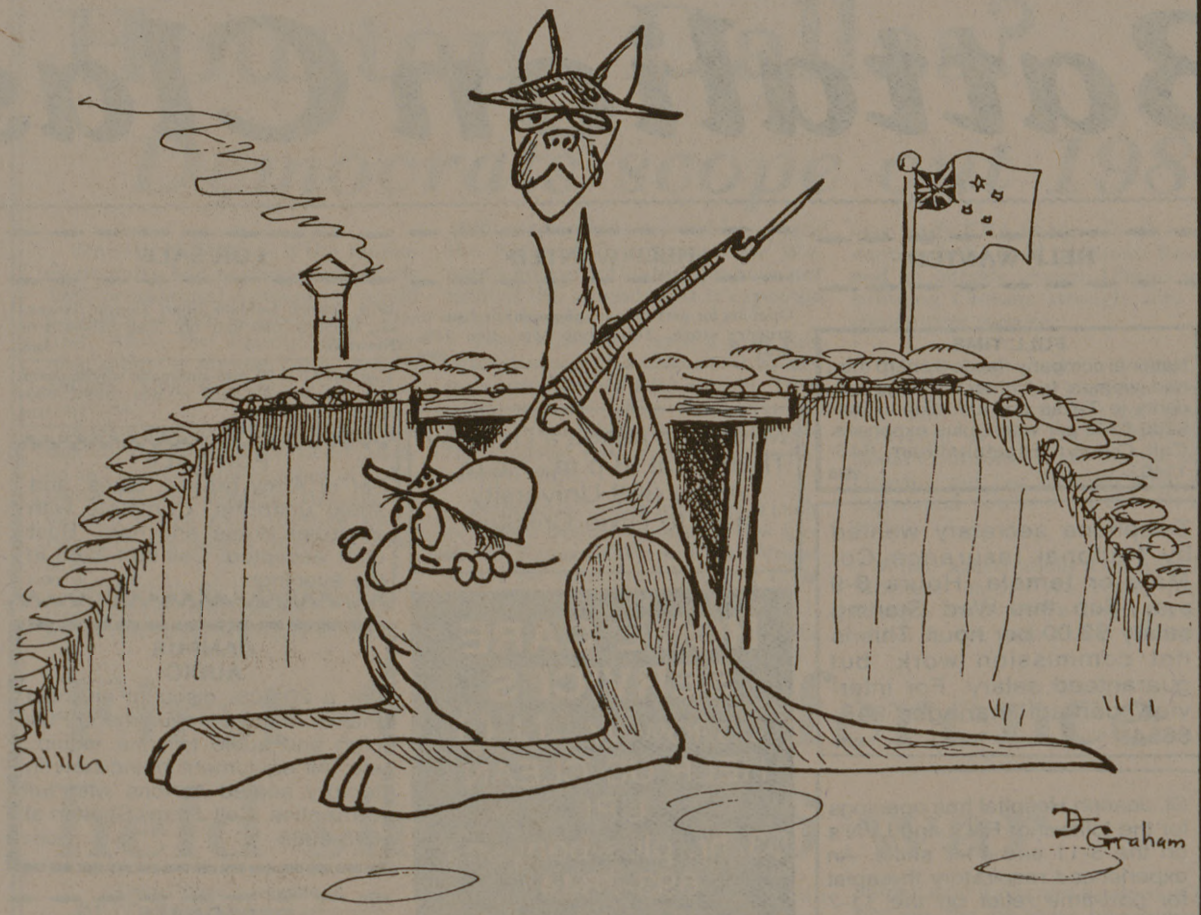
"All I'm going to say is that I'm holidaying here with some friends," Strong said when questioned by a reporter.

Strict security surrounds the village. Visitors can drive four miles onto the ranch but are then stopped.

Ricky Gribling, a Melbourne woman who visited the ranch two weeks ago to see some friends, reportedly said Strong had predicted the day of doom would be Oct. 2.

Failing that, it could either be last Sunday or Oct. 31, she told the Sydney newspaper. But in any event the destruction of the world reportedly is a certainty by Sept. 23, 1979.

The community members will not even drive automobiles near the well-hidden bunkers for fear of leaving tire tracks that they believe would guide the Russians to them, the newspaper said.



Vance opens Africa summit

United Press International
PRETORIA, South Africa — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, heading a team of five Western foreign ministers, opened crucial talks Monday with South African leaders to seek a peaceful transition to independence for Namibia (South West Africa).

The talks began as one of the territory's major political groups said it would defy a possible decision by the Pretoria summit meeting to postpone planned December elections.

American sources said before the five ministers resumed the afternoon talks, that Vance had met privately with Prime Minister Pieter Botha and personally handed him a letter from President Carter. The sources would not say what the letter contained.

Vance and the foreign ministers of West Germany, Canada, Britain as well as France's deputy foreign minister, aim to persuade Botha to accept a United Nations proposal for an April 1979 election supervised by 7,500 U.N. troops.

Last month South Africa rejected the plan, insisting on a smaller number of troops and calling for a Dec. 4 election.

If the talks fail, South Africa could face punitive U.N. trade sanctions and increased guerrilla activity.

After two hours of discussions with premier Botha, the five ministers started detailed talks with foreign minister Roelof Botha and defense chief Gen. Magnus Malan.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, one of Namibia's major political groups, cabled British Foreign Secretary David Owen saying it would not yield to either the five major powers or the South African government "in our determination to have elections this year in which the moderate and decent people of Namibia can demonstrate that they, and not the Marxist terrorists, comprise the overwhelming majority of the population."

The Soviet-backed guerrilla movement SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organization) is boycotting the Dec. 4 polling and has warned it would escalate insurgency operations if the elections are held.

Commenting on the South African plan to conduct its own election, Owen said Sunday: "It is quite inconceivable for us to accept the result of this makeshift election."

Cited for decision-making research

U.S. prof wins Nobel in economics

United Press International
STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Professor Herbert A. Simon of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, a pioneer of modern business administration who explained how business decisions are made, Monday won the Nobel Prize for economics.

"I am very pleased, delighted, astounded," Simon, 62, said at his home in Pittsburgh after learning that he had won the \$165,000 award.

"One does not go around waiting for lightning to strike," Simon was the fourth American to be honored in the three Nobel prizes awarded so far this year. He also was the seventh American to win the honor in economics.

The Swedish Academy of Sciences cited Simon "for his pioneering research into the decision-making process within economic organizations."

"Modern business economics and administrative research are largely based on Simon's ideas," the academy said.

Simon said his work was "an attempt to modify classical economic theory which assumed they (businessmen) had perfect information and that they were able to make any complicated computations."

The work that I did tried to take into account limits on people's ability to compute and deal with incomplete information and sometimes overwhelming information," Simon said.

Unlike the other prizes instituted by the late Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite, and awarded since 1901, the economics prize was established by the Central Bank of Sweden in 1968.

The economics prize was first awarded in 1969. The previous awards were shared by six Americans, three Britons, two Swedes, a Soviet, a Dutchman and a Norwegian.

Simon's scientific output has covered science theory, applied mathematics, statistics, operations analysis, economics and business administration.

"But he is, most of all, an economist — in the widest sense of that word — and his name is associated, most of all, with publications on structure and decision-making within economic organizations, a relatively new area of economic research," the academy said.

The academy in explaining Simon's achievement said:

"In his epoch-making book 'Administrative Behaviour,' and in a number of subsequent books, he described the company as an adap-

...tive system of physical, personal and social components that are held together by a network of intercommunications and by the willingness of its members to cooperate and strive towards a common goal."

Simon developed his ideas to an extent where they could be used for scientific studies, but they also applied to the systems and techniques of planning, budgeting and control that are used in modern business and public administration, the academy said.

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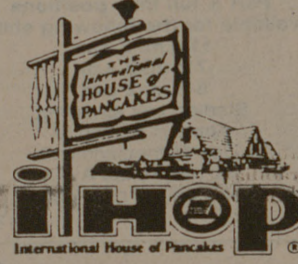
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