

Threat of nuclear war serious, experts say

United Press International
NEW YORK — A nuclear war is a possibility by the end of the century, with Israel and the Arab nations the most likely combatants, say a panel of experts on weapons and international affairs.
The results of a NEXT magazine survey of 32 civilian and military experts published in the magazine's October issue, paint a chilling scenario of potential nuclear conflicts. Almost unanimously, the experts said, they saw no way to reduce the threat of nuclear war.
"We are not trying to scare people," said an editor's preface to the findings in NEXT, a new monthly magazine exploring possibilities for the future. "We are trying to open up discussion on a subject that many people would prefer not to discuss."
They agreed there was only about a 10 percent chance of nuclear conflict before 1985, but in the latter part of the decade and during the 1990s, the chances will double.
Among the panel's consensus conclusions was that nuclear wars "most

likely" would be regional, as opposed to global.

The experts predicted the first such war probably will be fought between Israel and the Arab nations, with Israel the eventual winner.

But they said a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan was almost as likely — a war India would win.

In the third most likely, the Soviet Union would defeat China, they said.

They said a global conflict involving the Russians and the United States was 40 percent as likely as an Israeli-Arab nuclear exchange.

The panelists are more concerned about nuclear war now because there is so much technology controlling weapons that "something might go out of whack," the magazine said.

The panelists also cited nuclear proliferation and increasing world instability as factors making atomic wars more possible.

"These shifts and turnings apparently have persuaded the panelists

that we seem to be slouching toward Armageddon," NEXT said.

The magazine said it used the so-called Delphi Method to survey the experts, who included representatives of the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace, the Brookings Institution, congress and the Defense Department.

The magazine said in the Delphi Method, a panelist answers a questionnaire without knowing who else was responding. Then they receive a list of the other experts' names, along with a report of the combined answers. They then answer the same or similar questions again, usually arriving at consensus judgments.

One panelist, George H. Quester, a Cornell University political science professor, did offer an optimistic analysis. "My own suspicion," he said, "is that optimism is always downplayed in these polls."

"You know, anybody who is looking ahead would rather be wrong on the pessimistic side."

Hope gets smile out of Soviets

United Press International
MOSCOW — Bob Hope came to Red Square and even the grim-faced Soviet soldiers cracked a smile.

"I saw the star on top of the Kremlin and said 'there's my dressing room,'" the 77-year-old comedian quipped on his first visit to the Communist shrine in 21 years.

The crowd of Soviet tourists filling the famous cobblestoned square understood little of Hope's banter Wednesday afternoon. But because he was surrounded by whirring cameras and television reporters they stepped back with respect and smiled, evidently thinking some socialist dignitary had come to place flowers at the Lenin Mausoleum, inside which the founder of the Soviet state lies embalmed.

"I want to go to Lenin's Tomb," Hope said, "and check out his makeup man."

"Who's older?" a TV reporter chimed in.

"Reagan," Hope shot back without missing a beat. Hope stepped up to a Soviet Army soldier who grinned, shook Hope's outstretched hand and smiled warmly. He grinned even more broadly when a U.S. Embassy official explained who Hope was.

Hope was in Moscow this week for what was billed as a personal visit with U.S. Ambassador Thomas J. Watson, a longtime friend. He also plans to perform for members of the American community tonight, and said he planned to use filmed highlights of his visit in a future U.S. television program.

"I've got to work up some things" for the show today, Hope confided. "Some of the material from my last visit, in 1959, is still fresh. Back then, we got a laugh with 'Over here, the TV set watches you.' It's the same way now, but it watches you in color, I guess."

Asked to comment seriously on his impressions of Moscow today compared with the Khrushchev era of nearly a quarter-century ago, Hope said the Russian people now appear to be better clothed and housed.

"This place looks better off than China, which I visited last year," Hope said. "There are a lot more cars here."

Hope wrapped up his Red Square tour with a brief stop outside St. Basil's Cathedral, still gleaming from the fresh paint job and gilding of its onion domes done before the summer Olympics.

He gazed at the heroic 1818 sculpture of Minin and Pozharsky outside the church, commemorating the merchant and nobleman who led the armies that expelled Polish soldiers from Moscow in 1612.

"Hmmm," he said. "It looks like Carter and Kennedy getting together."

Borrowing also on the rise

Consumers spending more

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Americans are spending and borrowing again, and that has convinced at least one top government official the 1980 recession may have bottomed out and recovery is at hand.
In a preliminary report, the Commerce Department said retail sales rose for the third straight month in July, climbing 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$24.5 billion.
Earlier in the day, the Federal Reserve Board reported Americans increased their borrowing in July for the first time since the recession began back in February.

Today's report of a third successive monthly increase in retail sales reinforces the possibility that the low point of the 1980 recession has been reached and that recovery could begin sooner than had been expected, Commerce Secretary Philip Klutznick said Wednesday.

"It now appears the recession of 1980 could prove to be the shortest since World War II," he added.

While the improvement in retail sales was only about 1 percent of the size of July's revised 3.1 percent increase, it cut across all major retail categories.

Sales of durable goods — those products designed to

last at least three years — increased 2.4 percent to \$25.7 billion. Sales at non-durable goods stores rose 1 percent to \$53.8 billion.

July's borrowing figures indicated consumers, while continuing to pay off old debts, are taking on new debts now that the Federal Reserve has lifted its tight credit controls.

At the same time, Americans increased their payment of old debts from \$24.1 billion to \$25.1 billion in July.

As a result, outstanding consumer debt contracted \$609 million in July, only a fraction of the record \$3.46 billion decline in June and the \$3.43 billion drop in May.

Not all of the economic news out of Washington Wednesday was rosy.

In a survey completed last month, the Commerce Department asked businesses about their plant and equipment plans for the rest of the year.

In March, businesses said they expected to increase capital spending by 11.1 percent this year. In June, they had reduced that figure to 9.9 percent.

In the latest survey, firms now say they plan to increase their plant and equipment spending by only 8.7 percent, to \$192.5 billion this year.

\$2.4 million in gems taken in London heist

United Press International
LONDON — Two men, one armed with a pistol and the other with a hand grenade, burst into one of London's most exclusive jewelers Thursday and stole \$2.4 million in gems, including the famous 45-carat Marlborough diamond.

Scotland Yard said one of the gunmen pulled "a heavy-caliber revolver" from under his jacket and pushed the uniformed guard in front of Graff's jewelers inside the store.
By far the most valuable piece was

the 45-carat Marlborough diamond, with an estimated value of \$960,000, police said.

Police said a member of the store's staff chased the gunmen as they drove off from the store in London's fashionable Knightsbridge section, but he lost them. Police said they have the license number of the getaway car, but declined to elaborate.

Officials feared that the thieves might try to cut the stone rather than try to dispose of so famous a gem.

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