

Merry-Go-Round

**3 Events Affecting
Chances for Peace**

FBI Wawa



Drew Pearson

THREE SIGNIFICANT events occurred on one day last week — in Moscow, Washington and Detroit — all affecting the long-range chances of war or peace.

To understand the vital significance of these events, you have to know some of the things that have been happening in the White House.

Shortly before Christmas, President Johnson called Ambassador Llewelyn Thompson to the Texas ranch and spent a day with him discussing plans for improving Soviet-American relations. Mr. Johnson has become convinced that the only way to bring peace to the world is to insure it by the two strongest powers in the world.

So President Johnson and Thompson worked out moves for American-Russian co-operation, one of them being the ratification of the consular treaty between the two countries, the completion of a non-proliferation treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear arms, and a revolutionary proposal to co-operate in distributing foreign aid to the underdeveloped countries.

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BACK IN Washington, the President drafted a personal letter for Ambassador Thompson to deliver to President Podgorny when he presented his credentials in the Kremlin; he also told Secretary Dean Rusk to push for the ratification of the consular treaty. Thereafter occurred the following events.

● President Podgorny in Moscow, receiving Thompson, made a speech critical of U.S. policy in Vietnam. He appeared cool to President Johnson's proposals for Russian-American co-operation.

● Young Americans for Freedom, the ultra-right wingers, announced triumphantly that they had bulldozed American Motors in Detroit into surrendering its plans to sell automobiles to Russia.

● J. Edgar Hoover sent a letter to his close friend, Senator Karl Mundt (Rep.-S.D.) pulling the rug out from under Mr. Johnson's consular treaty with the Soviet Union.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when the rug-pulling occurred. He had thought he had Hoover's tacit support of the treaty and when he learned to the contrary he looked as if someone had hit him in the face.

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LAST WEEK Mundt, who hasn't changed with the years, looked as genial and roly-poly as ever as he used an old McCarthy tactic.

"I hold in my hand," he told the Senate Foreign Relations committee.

Then he flashed before the astonished Secretary Rusk a letter from J. Edgar Hoover which cut the ground out from under Rusk's and President Johnson's consular treaty with Russia. It reiterated Hoover's previous fears of Soviet spies who might operate from any new Russian consulate in the U.S.

Note — American Motors' surrender to the Young Americans for Freedom on selling cars to Russia followed a threatened boycott which the same group made against Firestone Rubber in 1965, which intimidated Firestone into canceling a contract to manufacture rubber in Romania.

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