

# Amchitka Test Delayed as Scientific Critics Insist Its Planned Weapons System Is Flawed

By WALLACE TURNER  
Special to The New York Times  
ANCHORAGE, Nov. 2—The Atomic Energy Commission announced today that it could not hold its Cannikin nuclear test on Amchitka Island before Saturday because of delays in filling the 6,000-foot hole in which the bomb is buried.

The preparations for the controversial test have taken more than four years at a cost of about \$200-million, and it will all be blown up in one tenth of a second in an attempt to perfect a warhead for an antiballistic missile system.

The hydrogen bomb, rated at five megatons potential by its designers (equivalent to five million tons of TNT), is the product of years of design work

and testing with smaller versions made on the same design principles. Scientific critics of the test have said the bomb will be done safely, but that the weapons system for which it is designed has fatal flaws.

A carefully drawn statement prepared by the Atomic Energy Commission has described the Cannikin bomb as "the most intricate and complicated configuration ever undertaken in the weapons program" and has said that it "is different from any other nuclear weapon ever produced."

While the design has been evolving, the commission has selected and prepared the test site on Amchitka Island in the Aleutians. The Aleutians are the volcanic-demonstrations

most unstable subsurface structures in the world. Earthquakes of considerable magnitude are frequent there. Further, schools of salmon from all the rivers of Asia and North America that feed into the North Pacific spend a part of their growing months in the western Aleutians. Any radiation pollution conceivably could be concentrated in them and spoil that valuable fishery.

Scientists for the commission insist that there is virtually no chance that the bomb test could touch off an earthquake, and they also insist that the explosion will be safely confined in its cavern 6,000 feet below the surface.

While most of the public opposing the demonstrations

test have been based on opposition to environmental pollution risks, within the relatively small community of physicists who understand the theories and purposes of Cannikin an entirely different criticism has been made.

This is that the bomb is being designed and tested for a weapons system that will not work. This is the Spartan antiballistic missile of the Safeguard protective shield for the Minuteman missile silos in Montana and North Dakota.

Guarded statements made by the Atomic Energy Commission and by qualified scientists in interviews show that the theory of Spartan is to destroy incoming rocket warheads by a blast of X-rays produced by a major hydrogen bomb explosion above the atmosphere.

Qualified sources have said that the commission has already tested smaller versions of the Cannikin warhead at the Nevada test site. The sources also said that the Department of Defense, which will operate the Spartan system, has directed other tests in which materials that could be used in warheads were exposed to smaller versions of the Cannikin bomb.

One critic is Dr. Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky, director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center at Palo Alto, Calif. Dr. Panofsky said in an interview that the Spartan system would not be able to differentiate between decoys and incoming rockets, that its warheads would be destroyed by rockets, that its warheads would be destroyed by rockets, that its warheads would be destroyed by rockets, that its warheads would be destroyed by rockets.

and that antiballistic missile bombs fired to destroy the first wave of incoming missiles would create secrets of radioactive material that will blind radar that would direct subsequent firings.

"The test has no real military purpose and is being held because of technological inertia," he said. "People just don't want to stop before they have the final design. The issue is whether man controls technology or technology controls man."

The people who design bombs just don't want to stop. The question is whether to continue to test just because we've done the work leading up to the test."

Federal Judge Raymond Pummmer dismissed today a suit by the Aleut League seeking to block the test planned for Amchitka. Judge Raymond Pummmer delivered a 38-page decision in the civil complaint against the Atomic Energy Commission. He held that the league had failed to prove its contentions in seeking to stop the test.

Third Appeal Filed  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (UPI)—Conservation groups filed a third court appeal today seeking to halt the Amchitka test. David L. Sive, attorney for the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility and six other groups, took his case to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. A hearing could come tomorrow.

Suit Is Dismissed  
ANCHORAGE, Nov. 2 (AP)—