

More Time Till 'Doomsday'

CHICAGO — (UPI) — The "doomsday clock" has been moved back to 10 minutes before midnight.

The "clock" is on the cover of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and in the April issue it has been moved back to 10 minutes before nuclear war as a result of the Senate's ratification of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

The magazine is published by nuclear scientists at the University of Chicago. Its editor-in-chief is Eugene Rabinowitch, a professor of chemistry at the State University of New York at Albany.

The doomsday clock was moved forward to seven minutes before midnight in January, 1968, because of the events of the previous five

years, including the development of nuclear weapons by Red China and France.

When the bulletin was started in June, 1947, the clock was set at seven minutes to midnight.

Its hands moved closer to doom in October, 1949, when it jumped to three minutes to midnight after Russia exploded its first nuclear bomb.

It moved to two minutes before midnight when the United States exploded its first hydrogen bomb in 1953.

In January, 1960, rumors of an East-West detente moved the clock back five minutes. Then, in October, 1963, the nuclear test ban treaty moved the hands back to 12 minutes before midnight — the farthest from doom ever.