

AMCHITKA PERSONNEL PHASE-OUT

CALGARY (CUP) — Personnel are being phased out of the Amchitka site, with over 300 of the once 700 at the site already having left.

Any imminent blast would involve a full complement of staff at the site making preparations until just prior to blast time.

The Washington Post meanwhile talked to some American government officials who concede that the blast

would be delayed. They give as an excuse the fact that they don't want to coincide the blast with Russian Premier Kosygin's visit to Canada.

Our sources were contacted at Anchorage during Japanese Emperor Hirohito's meeting with Nixon, and our information was confirmed from Washington Friday. They indicate a re-assessment of the need for the blast; and possible radiation leak tidal wave and geological effects; were prime reasons for

the decision to delay and the strong inclination to totally negate the blast.

However, political considerations, including strong protests from Canada and Japan, undoubtedly bear some weight. In addition, the U.S. government has had many facts brought to light by the scientific community outside its agencies. There have also been strong protests from conservationists and students.

The Americans in the

executive branch appear to be caught between an inadequate assessment by one of their own agencies (which is naturally unwilling to admit error), massive controversy over the issue, and significant international political considerations— and wish the Amchitka bomb and controversy over the issue would both go away and die a peaceful death.

The issue is sensitive because of all SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation) talks. Nixon has had

recent meetings in Washington with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on arms limitation. The U.S. anti-ballistic missile program was the reason for the Amchitka blast in the first place.

Nixon is expected to present a message to the U.S. Congress referring to the matter in the near future — a message which will include U.S. policy considerations including the Americans' environmental and arms limitation stances.

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Why was Council Speaker Ken Porter (on the right) looking worried during the Gazette debate last night: Did he think that Students' Union President Don McKenzie (on the left) could not innoculate the minds of student councillors against the biased propaganda expressed by the Gateway editor: For details, see page 12.

Council brief may kill AAS

Students' Council Monday night accepted a proposal by Students' Union External Vice-President, Ian McDonnell, which would virtually abolish the present executive of the Alberta Association of Students (AAS).

The proposal advocates replacing the superstructure of the AAS with an "informal and smaller organization". A council of student presidents would form the proposed executive and the president of the host campus would act as chairman for conferences.

Tim Christian, AAS President and former U of A Students' Union President, says he is not

worried about the opposition that seems to be coming from U of A and U of C because "I don't think the arguments against the AAS are very well founded."

The thrust of the opposition seems to be aimed at either the present executive or it is a disagreement with the basic theory of having an executive. If it is aimed at the present executive, the solution may be found in a new executive. If it is a criticism of the executive in general, however, Christian claims the entire existence of the AAS is being questioned. He maintains that "the executive is necessary for the functioning of the organization."

Students' Council claims that the proposed organization would be to (1) save money by sharing costs (2) improve relationships between campuses, and (3) have more control over research projects.

Many students' unions have not received as much money as expected from student fees because of a decreased student enrollment. As a result some

unions may have a difficult time meeting their requirements on their own campuses let alone commitments to the AAS.

McDonnell's brief suggests that by splitting up the various research costs, travelling, duplicating, mailing, etc. money would be saved. But it does not make sense in terms of the resulting duplication of effort. Not only would that occur but the coordination of such a loose organization would be a full time job. If it was a full time job, the president would need a staff and permanent committees. This would put the informal and smaller organization in the same league as the present AAS executive.

At present the poorer students' unions in the AAS reap the same benefits as the richer ones. This is because the costs of its activities are assessed on a per capita basis. Christian claims that a fair distribution would not be possible if the proposed alternative were accepted. The reason is that smaller universities and colleges would not be able to participate in hosting conferences and in doing research.

Council Supports Amchitka Protest

For the second time in less than a month, Students' Council has totally reversed its stand on an issue.

At Monday's meeting, Council overwhelmingly endorsed a motion urging Prime Minister Trudeau and the provincial premiers to condemn the Amchitka nuclear test.

They condemned the test themselves in passing a motion to ask United States President Richard Nixon to stop the planned blast. Last week Council defeated such a motion.

U of A Vietnam Action Committee spokesman Larry Panych was "floored" when a UAVAC request for \$150 to cover advertising costs, including an ad in this issue of the Gateway, was granted in a second motion.

The motion was in regard to advertising necessary for a planned protest march Wednesday. The anti-Amchitka demonstration will start around noon at SUB and will end in a rally outside the Federal Building.

UAVAC is contacting the Edmonton High Schools Student Associations for possible support from that sector. Panych feels that many high school students will be in attendance at the demonstration.

Science Representative Bruce Jackson claimed at Monday's meeting that Council should condemn all nuclear tests. He accused Russia, China, and France of "forcing the U.S. to

continue testing."

UAVAC countered with the position that this is the first time a nuclear test will take place in international waters. Cries of protest arose, probably in reference to the French Pacific tests. The French Pacific test sites are internationally recognized as French national territory.

The Amchitka test will, however, take place four miles off Amchitka Island, Alaska, or one mile outside American territorial waters. It will furthermore be set off in a region of high earthquake probability, and very close to the US Department of the Interior's sea otter sanctuary.

Arts Rep Barry McLaren claimed that his seems to be "just a Canadian thing". He wondered if we would protest if the test were to be off South America, and said that we just don't seem to care about anyone else. Possible action, according to Larry Panych would be to cut off some exports of natural resources to the Americans in order to force them to re-evaluate their position.

There has been some speculation that President Richard Nixon may have been doing just such a turnabout when he announced that the test has been postponed until after the visit of Soviet President Alexei Kosygin to Canada later this month.

by Darryl Gregorash

SUB EXPANSION

SUB Expansion may be an obsolete issue, in spite of a 1970 referendum which established student support for the proposal. At the time expansion was felt to be essential to provide entertainment or recreation areas, additional office space for student clubs, increased lounge and lunch areas, and commercial services in a central mall.

Recent developments such as

the construction of the Students' Housing project scheduled for completion by September 1972 may have modified these needs. The more essential HUB will provide food services and a mall and the focus of student life will likely be affected by the general eastward development of the campus.

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