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Bakhtar News Agency

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Lightning Kills 14 Lesothans

MASERU, Lesotho, Dec. 20 (Reuter).—Fourteen people were killed when lightning struck a small village near here Saturday night while a feast was in progress. Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan and several ministers and senior civil servants rushed to the village, Khamolane, when they learned of the tragedy.

Two Americans On Trial In Leningrad Court

LENINGRAD, Dec. 20, (Tass).—Four witnesses were called in the public trial of U.S. citizens Wortham and Gilmour, which opened here. Buel Ray Wortham and Craddock Matheur Gilmour are charged with violating Soviet currency regulations while staying in the Soviet Union as tourists late in September. Besides, Wortham is charged with stealing a sculpture from the Leningrad hotel Evropeiskaya. Witness testimony confirmed their guilt. By the Soviet laws, crimes committed by Wortham and Gilmour, carry prison sentences with the confiscation of foreign currency and securities. Wortham said during questioning that he had dollars and Finnish marks at a black market price hiding with the currency dealer in a public toilet of a setore. "I realised of course, that such methods of currency exchange were unlawful," he replied to a question by the state prosecutor.

During their tourist trip in the USSR the two Americans unlawfully exchanged foreign currency for roubles.

WEATHER FORECAST
Skies through the country will be partly cloudy. Central and northern regions will have frost. The minimum temperature will be minus seven degrees and the maximum will be 11 degrees centigrade.

AT THE CINEMA

ARIANA CINEMA
At 1, 3, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Russian film with English translation.

PARK CINEMA
At 1, 3, 8 and 10 p.m. Iranian film.

THE STAR OF DESERT BEHZAD CINEMA
At 12 noon, 2:30, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Indian film.

BOMBAY KA BABU KABUL CINEMA
At 1, 3, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. French colour film.

CHOPLIN OF X NO. 18

The Christmas Pageant

with camels and other live animals will be held in the garden of the Community Christian Church Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights December 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 p.m. Kindly dress warmly since the presentation is outside and takes 23 minutes.

HAMIDZADAH AND MATTIN STORES



We have everything
for
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Reason For Non-Proliferation

(Contd. from page 2)
and compressed a little with fluorine. Let half that gas diffuse through a porous barrier and it will have more light (i.e. uranium 235) atoms in it than the other half remaining on the other side. Repeat until all the uranium has been separated. The snag is the same as in Mrs. Beeton's apocryphal recipe for the hare. First, catch it. The uranium turns into a gas all right, but one so corrosive that it attacks everything within sight; and the favourite material for constructing the separation plants is inch-thick aluminium plate of nickel-plated steel (the Americans also use gold plate, but British and French scientists are perplexed to think quite where—or why). It also attacks and corrodes most of the obvious materials for making the porous barrier and clogs up the holes (which, as they are only about a millionth of a centimetre in diameter anyway, are all too easy to clog). Probably the most difficult choice in the whole design is to find something to make this barrier from: something that would contain the right size of hole, and stand up to corrosion, and still be strong enough to hold against some fairly formidable battering from gas under pressure on one side, and a vacuum into which the gas was diffusing on the other. The Americans have been more forthcoming about these barriers than either the British or the French; they admit to using tubes of powdered nickel into which the gas is pumped under pressure and allowed to filter out through the walls. In the early days of research, the British fell back on the etching techniques used by printers to etch out the holes in their filters.

These are the basic ingredients of separating uranium—a gas, a cylinder fitted with porous barriers, a compressor to force the gas against one side of the barrier, a vacuum pump to keep contaminating air out of the system. They can all be built and assembled in a laboratory. But when one tries to translate them into a full-scale plant, one collides with the nature of uranium itself. It hasn't got 50 per cent, or 40 per cent, or even 25 per cent of the light uranium 235; it has considerably less than one per cent. To start from as little as this, and end up with the nearly 100 per cent uranium 235 that the bombs require, involves at least 4,000 filtering stages, each with its associated compressor and vacuum pumps, all linked in one long, continuously operating, hot vibrating cascade. Huge quantities of gas have to be processed for a tiny yield; the plant scales down from pipes towering 20 feet high to units diminishing off in the distance to shoe-box size. The few people who have visited these plants all describe the sensation of apparatus dwindling into the distance as eerie, and unlike that in any other known plant.

In Britain and the United States, these units at the upper, high-enrichment end of the plant have been shut down on a care and maintenance basis, blanketed in nitrogen,

their light switched off. Their only workers are the maintenance engineers doing their occasional rounds. For Britain's and America's inventories of weapons are full. Only lowering, low-enrichment ends of their plants are working, and in Britain being substantially rebuilt, to produce very mildly enriched power station fuel with between two and three times the normal concentration of uranium 235. But in France and China (one cannot guess what is happening inside the Soviet Union) the high-enrichment plants are working at out on warheads and fuel for nuclear submarines. The French will have no margin of capacity to make civil atomic fuel unless extra stages are built at Pierrelatte; and the £400 million bill for what is going up now may make even General de Gaulle consider that a bit expensive. The puzzle remains how the Chinese mastered the art—for it is an art—of building their separation plant. The late head of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Bhabha, used to argue privately that the Chinese had only half a plant. He suspected that they were feeding it with enriched uranium fuel provided by Russia years ago for research reactors given to China; so that half the job had already been done for the Chinese in advance, and they did not have the problem of getting a 4,000-stage installation to work without benefit of instrumentation. But if that gift from long ago is the Chinese governments only source of enriched uranium, it is blasting through it at a pretty prodigal rate of testing.

(ECONOMIST)

Smoking Habit

(Contd. from page 3)
According to the Banque Francaise's study, prospects for European cigarette manufacturers are particularly good because the citizens of the Community are still comparatively moderate smokers. Western Germany, with an annual consumption of some 1,500 cigarettes per adult, is undeniably the heaviest-smoking country of the Six, but nevertheless it is far behind the USA and Switzerland (each over 3,000) and even behind Britain, Poland, Australia and Hungary (over 2,000).

However, the Community's tobacco-growers, who are mainly to be found in Italy (Apulia and Campania) and in France, will not profit much from the expected rise in consumption. Of all the tobacco sold in the EEC in 1964 only 23% was home-produced; 267,000 metric of unmanufactured tobacco in Europe is the cost of production, which is almost twice as much as in the overseas tobacco-growing regions. Cultivation is extremely difficult, and requires the constant employment of many workers. A further problem is the producers' custom of satisfying the current taste of the public by preparing complicated blends of tobacco of the most widely different origin.

Besides becoming steadily more modern, the European tobacco-manufacturing industry is also becoming concentrated. For instance, in Western Germany, where there were 2,500 cigar manufacturers in 1948, 19 firms now account for 70% of the country's entire production. Conditions are much the same in the cigarette industry; there, 17 manufacturers are responsible for 97% of production.

Dismantling of customs frontiers and the general integration of the EEC are undoubtedly also helping intra-Community tobacco trade. To be sure, special conditions might be said to apply, owing to the fact that in France and Italy tobacco is a government monopoly. In contrast to the other countries of the Community, the cultivation, manufacture and sale of tobacco there are in the hands of the state.

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Karte Parwan Phone: 24204

EFTA

(Continued from page 3)
time-table for this elimination. In fact these barriers have been removed much more quickly: A 50 per cent reduction in tariffs was achieved in two years and four months instead of four and a half years, and at the Ministerial Meeting of the Council at Lisbon in May 1963 a final time-table was established for the complete dismantling of tariffs and quotas at the end of this year, three years earlier than originally envisaged. Following the 10 per cent reductions at the end of 1964 and 1965 of the pre-EFTA tariffs levels the final cut of 200 per cent takes place on 31st December 1966. Four EFTA countries—Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain—already have virtually no quantitative restrictions on imports of industrial goods from other member countries.

GROWTH OF TRADE
Without doubt the agreement has been the major factor in the impressive growth of trade between the member countries. Imports into EFTA from other member countries about doubled in value between 1959 and 1965—from \$3,662 million to \$7,174 million, an increase of 69 per cent with an annual average increase of about 12 per cent. During 1966 trade has continued to expand, intra-EFTA imports in the first half of the year rising by 9½ per cent over the corresponding periods of 1965.

Britain accounts for under 30 per cent of intra-EFTA trade. Its general overseas trading pattern differs markedly from the other members in a much higher proportion with non-European countries. However, between 1959 and 1965 its exports to the EFTA countries rose by 72 per cent, compared with a 42 per cent increase in overall exports, while the corresponding figures for imports were 66 per cent and 44 per cent respectively.

Since 1960 British industry has been able to increase its share appreciably of the EFTA market for cars, textiles, scientific instruments, chemicals and other products. In the British home market other EFTA members have likewise improved their relative position in textiles, clothing, cars and chemicals and in certain type in machinery. Intra-EFTA trade in agricultural products, which for the most part lies outside the Convention, has benefited from certain bilateral arrangements, the main one being between Britain and Denmark. The rate of increase since 1961 has been broadly in line with the growth of trade as a whole.

ECONOMIC UNITY IN EUROPE
One of EFTA's original aims is the creation of a unified European market, and the meetings of its Council of Ministers repeatedly reaffirmed this objective. The removal of trade restrictions inside EFTA has more than kept pace with the tariff cuts in the EEC, thus enabling EFTA to go ahead without difficulty in any future process of unification. (Austria's negotiations for association with the EEC are now at a relatively advanced stage.) The whole issue of a fresh approach to an individual European economic structure is very much under consideration at present. Meanwhile, the inauguration of EFTA's own free trade area demonstrates how smoothly apparently formidable obstacles may be overcome.

(FACTEL)

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Thursday, Dec. 22, 8 p.m. Christmas Dance Night, Music by Blue Sharks, special dinner menu, door prizes. Af. 100 for reservation tickets for guests of members (but before 5 p.m., Dec. 22). Guests of members tickets Af. 200 at door.

FOR SALE
New VW 130 arriving Kabul within 10 days. Duty to be paid. Tel: 21604.

Handicrafts For Christmas

For Christmas presents! Do not forget the handicrafts from the Ministry of Mines and Industries shop. Ground floor, Ministry of Education, Mohammad Jan Khan Watt.

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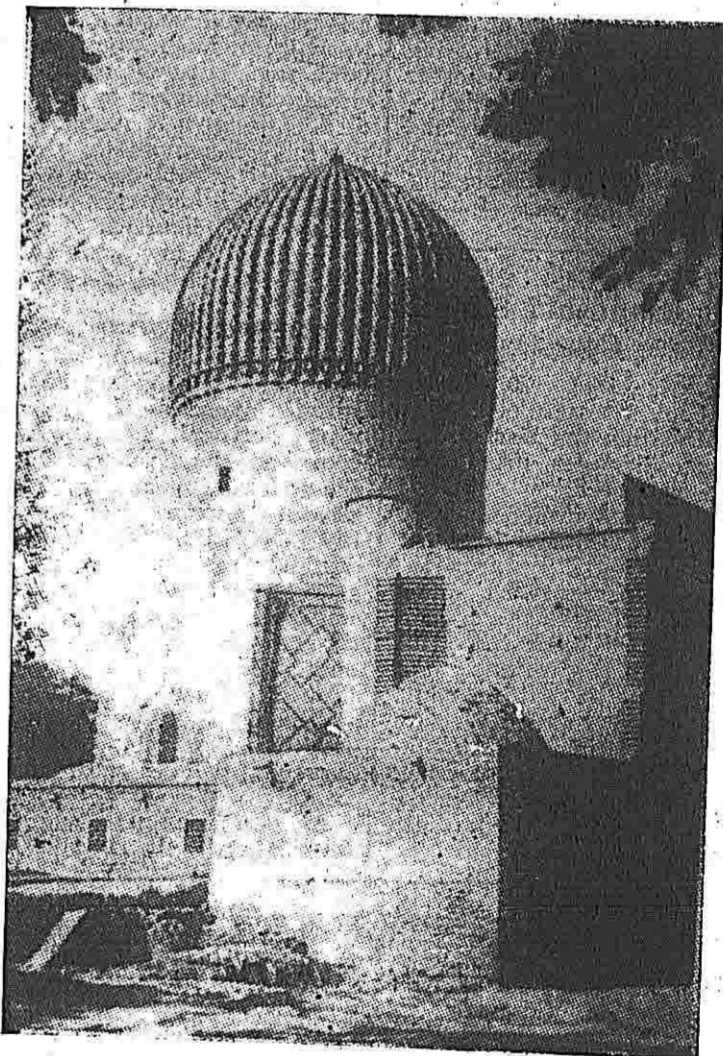
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