

Khrushchev Invites U. S. To Missile Shooting Match

By The United Press.

MOSCOW, Nov. 15—Nikita S. Khrushchev today asserted Soviet superiority in the field of missiles and challenged the United States to a rocket-range "shooting match" to prove it. He warned that any future war in the ballistic missile era would be "fought on the American continent."

He said that while Russia also would "suffer immensely," the outcome would be the death of capitalism and the universal triumph of communism. But he said that Russia never would start a war herself and that the people of the world wanted peace.

The Soviet Communist party chief ranged over military, political and diplomatic issues during a two-and-a-half-hour interview with Henry Shapiro, Moscow correspondent of The United Press. The interview was conducted in Russian without interpreters.

Points Made by Khrushchev

Mr. Khrushchev made these major points:

—¶He is "convinced" the United States does not have an intercontinental ballistics missile because "if she had she would have launched her own sputnik."

¶Russia never will start a war, but "some lunatics" might do so.

¶Prospects for preserving peace are "not bad."

¶An East-West top-level meeting is necessary, but there probably will not be one in the near future.

¶Russia and the United States alone could settle major world problems at a two-power meeting.

¶The emergence of another Stalin in Russia is impossible.

¶Georgi K. Zhukov was ousted as Defense Minister because he fancied himself a Stalin. But he still remains a military "hero."

¶Russia has the power to

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smash North Atlantic Treaty Organization bases the world over and strike at vital centers anywhere in the continental United States.

Europe "might become a veritable cemetery" in another war.

The American as well as the Soviet people want peace.

Stresses Soviet Lead

The Communist party chief hammered hard at his theme that the Soviet Union had outstripped the United States in missile development.

Mr. Khrushchev termed the next war "history's most terrible."

"It would be fought on the American continent, which can be reached by our rockets," he said.

He said the first ballistic rocket launched by the Soviet Union "hit the bullseye" and that the Soviet Union now could "dispose of bases in Europe, Africa and Asia" which the West counts on. [The dispatch did not describe the "bullseye."]

Expressing his doubt that the United States had a workable intercontinental ballistic missile, he said that if the United States refused to believe Soviet claims, "let's have a peaceful rocket contest just like a rifle-shooting match and they'll see for themselves."

Mr. Khrushchev spoke in his

Kremlin office. He answered questions submitted in advance and replied in a personal interview at a long, baize-covered conference table. The party leader was accompanied by Leonid F. Ilyichev, Foreign Minister press chief, and a stenographer.

The party chief said that a third world war would not necessarily mean the end of mankind, as some scientists had predicted, but would mean the annihilation of the capitalist system.

Says U. S. Lacks I. C. B. M.

When it was pointed out that the West had NATO bases circling the Soviet Union, he replied:

"It is true that we are surrounded by American bases. But we have our intercontinental ballistic missile rockets and submarines. Our submarines can block American ports and shoot [into] the American interior while our rockets can reach any target. America's vital centers are just as vulnerable as NATO bases.

"I am convinced that America has not got the I. C. B. M. If they had, they would have launched their own sputnik. We launched our sputnik on the basis of our I. C. B. M. and, if necessary, we can launch any number of sputniks we want."

He repeated: "America has ballistic missiles, but not the I. C. B. M."

"In spite of what American officials say," he asserted, "bombers are useless compared to rockets. How many bombers can get through and actually deliver hydrogen bombs?"

It was a question he had

asked before and answered in a similar vein.

Despite world tensions, he said he believed the chances for peace were "not bad."

"I don't think we have a pre-war situation now," he said. But he denounced Secretary of State Dulles for having created "an artificial war psychosis."

The United States, he said, "won't succeed in making war. The balance of strength is against them; even Dulles knows that," he added.

Mr. Khrushchev denied that military men sparked Marshal Zhukov's removal as Defense Minister. He said the 15-member party Presidium raised the question and the 133-member Central Committee decided on it.