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ROGER, NO PROBLEM - COOPER

Hitch in Last Stage of Space Mission

(R.S.) CAPE CANAVERAL, May 16.
Astronaut Gordon Cooper ran into trouble today in the final stage of an otherwise almost faultless 22-orbit flight round the earth.

A faulty switch upset the spacecraft's automatic control system and Mercury control told the 36-year-old astronaut that he would have to fire his retro-rockets manually. The retro-rockets, mounted in front of Cooper's Faith 7 capsule slow the one-ton spacecraft down before it plunges into the fiery test of re-entry to the atmosphere — the most dangerous phase of the whole flight.

Plunge through Atmosphere

Scientists on the ground decided that after breaking manually out of his 22nd and last orbit over the Pacific, Cooper could use his automatic system to control the actual plunge through the atmosphere — when the capsule will be subjected to heat of up to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Told he would have to fire the retro-rockets manually, Cooper replied laconically: "Roger, no problem".

Only a tough heatshield at the front of the rocket stands between the astronaut and incineration at this stage.

Ground control told Cooper that everything appeared normal, but told him to "power up" — take over direct pilot control — in case more trouble developed while ground scientists tried to trace the fault in the capsule's electrical system.

Later tests showed that the faulty switch upset the automatic control system and Cooper was told to position himself manually for the retro-fire sequence.

Lieutenant Colonel John Powers, the Press Officer here, said scientists had determined that an electrical relay which triggers the "O5G" light and affects part of the automatic control system, had apparently closed prematurely.

This meant that the automatic system could not position the capsule properly to

fire the retro-rockets. Cooper would have to do this manually.

Officials Confident

When the capsule drops from orbit to the point where gravity forces would have closed the relay anyway, Cooper can turn on the automatic system for the rest of his re-entry, Powers said.

Powers said flight officials are confident Cooper can handle the intricate task. "His simulations of their manoeuvrability were excellent during training."

Cooper will get a verbal countdown from astronaut John Glenn, stationed aboard the tracking ship Coastal Sentry, South of Japan.

A task force of ships, aircraft, and helicopters directed from the Carrier Kearsarge is stationed to pick Cooper up.

Doctors aboard the carrier explained that Cooper could be dizzy or even unconscious from the effects of prolonged weightlessness.

Weather in the recovery area is good.

G.A.T.T. Ministerial Conference 'ACTION PROGRAMME' ACCEPTED

(Reuter's Service)

GENEVA, May 16.

Both Britain and America told the Gatt conference which opened here today that they broadly accepted an "action programme" proposed by the under-developed countries to improve their export opportunities.

Mr. Frederick Erroll, President of the Board of Trade, said: "To enable the less developed countries to increase their trade is perhaps the biggest task before us today."

Mr. Christian Herter, President Kennedy's special representative for trade negotiations, said "no task this meeting faces is more important than that of finding ways to improve the export opportunities of less-developed countries."

"If we do not succeed in this task, much of the effort and money that the countries represented here have put into economic and technical aid will have been wasted and we will have failed in our common purpose of enabling less developed countries to move forward with their economic development."

"The United States hopes to make toward this objective at least as great a contribution as that of any other industrialized country."

The conference of 77 dele-

gates from 50 nations in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is preparing for the biggest trade liberalization programme in history.

The first point on the agenda is measures for expansion of trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development.

The Ministers are expected to complete discussion of this by tomorrow afternoon.

PENKOVSKY EXECUTED

(Reuter's Service)

MOSCOW, May 16.

Russia today announced the execution of Oleg Penkovsky, 44-year-old Soviet scientific worker, sentenced to death five days ago for spying.

A statement by the official Soviet news agency Tass said simply that "the spy Oleg Penkovsky has been shot". It did not say when Penkovsky had faced the firing squad or give any other details.

C.M.T.U. CONGRESS

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The Congress of the Confederation of Malta Trade Unions held its second session at the Anglo-Maltese League Headquarters, Valetta, yesterday.

The opening session was held at the University Theatre, Valetta, on Sunday morning. On Tuesday the first working session at the Anglo-Maltese was presided over by Mr. E.C. Tabone, in the absence of the C.M.T.U. President, Mr. A.M. Callus, who is sick, and the Vice-President, Prof. E. Busuttill, who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Tabone was eventually elected Vice-President unopposed.

The C.M.T.U. Council will now have two Vice-Presidents as a resolution to this effect was passed following a motion by the Administrative Committee.

Yesterday the second work-

ing session was presided over by Mr. E.C. Tabone.

The new Council for 1963-65 is now composed of the following gentlemen: President: A.M. Callus; General Secretary: W. R. Zahra; Treasurer: E. Spiteri; Vice-Presidents: A. Darnenia, Ph.C. and E.C. Tabone; Assistant Secretary: G. Callus; Elected Members: M. Vella Haber, Dip.Pol.Econ (Oxon); P. Balzan, Dip.Pol.Econ. (Oxon); V. Frendo Azopardi; J. Aquilina; T. Mayo; S. Brinciau. In addition certain unions will send nominated representatives on the Council.

The Congress adjourned till Monday at 6 p.m. at the Anglo-Maltese League.

Stop Press:

ASTRONAUT SAFE AND SOUND PACIFIC RECOVERY

Astronaut Gordon Cooper landed safely in the Pacific today after 22 orbits of the earth in the space capsule Faith 7.

The carrier Kearsarge steamed towards the little capsule while three helicopters hovered above. The pilots reported Cooper said he was "feeling fine."

Cooper splashed down only two miles away from the port bow of the Kearsarge.

Cooper asked that he and his capsule be lifted aboard the Kearsarge by crane.



Mr. E.C. Tabone presiding over the first working session of the C.M.T.U. Congress at the Anglo-Maltese. He is flanked by Mr. Spiteri (left), and Mr. Zahra.



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