

CN 277

FRANCE - H - BOMB TEST POSTPONED

PAPEETE, TAHITI AUG 21 (UPI)-- ADVERSE WEATHER TODAY FORCED FRANCE TO POSTPONE HER FIRST H-BOMB TEST FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST FOUR DAYS.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF THE POSTPONEMENT, BUT TAHITI TELEVISION REPORTED RAIN IN THE TEST ZONE.

THE TEST HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, BUT WAS CALLED OFF BECAUSE HIGH WINDS COULD HAVE CARRIED THE RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT TO INHABITED AREAS.

THE EXPLOSION WILL CAP EIGHT YEARS OF WORK BY FRANCE SINCE EXPLODED HER FIRST ATOMIC BOMB IN THE SAHARA IN 1960. THE H-TEST HAS BEEN PRECEDED THIS SUMMER BY THREE ATOMIC BLASTS WHICH PREPARED THE "TRIGGER" FOR THE H-BOMB.

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