

less since Manila. They have grown greater. The partners want to make South-East Asia secure against aggression. It's Communist aggression they have in mind. But it's quite unlikely that they will have to anticipate and prepare against military frontier-crossing aggression. What the SEATO partners are up against, in South Indo-China, at any rate, is village-by-village subversion. The movement is one in which the driving force of nationalism has been harnessed and is being directed by Communist leaders.

Now if there's one thing certain it is that movements of this kind cannot be countered by concerting plans for military action. If they are to be countered the support of the peoples whom we see as the victims of aggression must somehow be enlisted. The United Nations forces in Korea could have done little without South Korean support. The French failed in Indo-China because they never succeeded in enlisting the support of the native peoples. There's another reason why the SEATO partners' task is now more difficult. It lies in the simple knowledge that their conference is to be followed by the Afro-Asian conference. Mr. Nehru is reported to have said at the recent meeting that Communist China does not present a direct threat to its neighbours. If this view prevails at the Afro-Asia conference, who are the peoples of South-East Asia going to believe—the statesmen at Bangkok in February, or the statesmen at Jakarta in April?

—E. V. DUMBLETON,
January 8, 1955.

Service Section

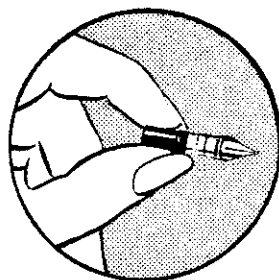
Readers with special problems in the care and maintenance of radio receiving sets are invited to send inquiries to the Editor of "The Listener." Names and addresses are required. Wherever possible, replies will be given, either in "The Listener" or by letter.



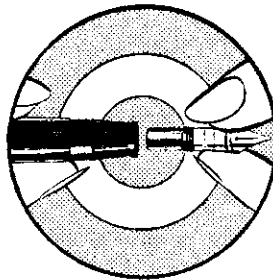
IN wet weather J.L.M. (Hamilton) has much trouble with noise. He uses a vertical aerial, made from brass and copper tube. Its height from the ground is 36 feet. After describing the noise, J.L.M. goes on: "I am satisfied it is something connected with wet weather and squalls, as I have stood at my window on the westerly side of my house, with my wireless on, and watched rain squalls . . . coming towards me and bringing this disturbance."

A possible cause of the noise is precipitation static. It occurs when charged raindrops hit the metallic portions of the aerial and impart their charges. The interference can be reduced by covering the metal surface of the aerial with insulating varnish and using an insulated lead in wire. With some types of receivers it is possible for the aerial to become charged with atmospheric electricity, and in wet weather the leakage to the ground of the charge across the surface of the insulator can cause a "spluttering" sound. A resistor of about 100,000 ohms, connected at the receiver between the aerial and the earth terminals, will usually suppress this noise.

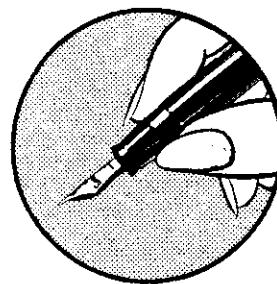
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