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FURY

by Henry Kuttner

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THE MOON AND MAIN DRAINAGE

On the eve of the Bank Holiday, August, 1955, the British press and radio—and for all we know the world's—began a series of reports on space travel, earth satellites, moon rockets and so forth, kept it up for a week and one still finds it outcropping a month or more after the event.

The event, of course, was the Congress of the International Astronautical Federation held at Copenhagen, home of the greatest fairy-story-teller of all time, Hans Christian Andersen.

Coinciding with the Congress there were releases of information by the British, American and Russian Governments, about their plans for you and me in this direction. "Britain to Build Space Rocket"; "Russia Joins Space Race"; she plans to beat U.S. in the take-off." But it was all very friendly, with a healthy sporting "my rocket's bigger than yours" note.

It was left to Robert Boyd, Professor of Physics at London University, to explain calmly in a talk on the radio that a knowledge of the upper atmosphere (where the short waves live) that a satellite might reveal, would perhaps enable wireless engineers to eliminate that irritating fading experienced in