

The delegate from Argentina got up and talked about the new cheap power source which the Kanamit had shown us at an earlier session. He said that his government was interested, but could not commit itself without knowing a great deal more.

It was what all the delegates were saying. Janciewicz, the Polish delegate, said almost the same thing. Then the delegate from France introduced Dr. Denis Lévêque, an expert on crime. A lot of equipment was wheeled in.

Dr. Lévêque recalled the question of the delegate from the U.S.S.R. at the earlier session. The delegate had asked, "What is the purpose of the Kanamit? Why are they offering us these gifts, while asking nothing in return?"

The doctor then said, "At the request of several members, we have made a series of tests upon the Kanamit. These tests will now be repeated."

There was a blaze of flashbulbs. One of the TV cameras moved up to focus on the equipment. At the same time, a huge TV screen lighted up. We saw the blank faces of two dials. The pointer of each rested at zero. We saw a strip of paper tape with the point of a marker resting against it.

The doctor's assistants were fastening wires to the head of one of the Kanamit. They wrapped a rubber tube around his forearm, then taped something to the palm of his right hand.

On the screen, we saw the paper tape begin to move. The marker traced a slow zigzag pattern along it. One of the needles began to jump.

"These are the standard instruments for testing the truth of a statement," said Dr. Lévêque. "The bodies and brains of the Kanamit are unknown to us. So our first step was to find out if they react to these tests as human beings do."

He pointed to the first dial. "This instrument measures his brain waves. It has been shown, with humans, that changes in these readings take place when the subject is not speaking the truth."

Handwritten notes: "Intelligence USSR", "delegates", "is something"

Handwritten notes: "The Kanamit", "test is", "Gwerth"

He picked up two pieces of cardboard. One was red, one was black. The black piece was longer than the red.

"Which of these is longer than the other?" he asked the Kanama.

"The red," said the Kanama.

Both needles leaped wildly. So did the line on the unrolling tape.

"I shall repeat the question," said the doctor. "Which of these is longer?"

"The black," said the creature.

The needles did not jump.

"How did you come to this planet?" asked the doctor.

"Walked," said the Kanama.

Again, the instruments leaped. There was laughter among the delegates.

"Once more," said the doctor. "How did you come to this planet?"

"In a spaceship," said the Kanama. The instruments did not jump.

The doctor faced the delegates.

"Many such experiments were made," he said. "They proved that our equipment works. Now I shall ask our guest to reply to the question from the Soviet delegate. Why are the Kanamit people offering these great gifts to the people of Earth?"

The Kanama rose. In English, he said, "I hope that the people of Earth will understand and believe that our mission is simple. It is to bring to you the peace and plenty that we enjoy. We have, in the past, brought it to other races throughout the galaxy. When your world has no more hunger, no more war, no more suffering — that will be our reward."

And the needles had not jumped once.

The delegate from the Ukraine jumped to his feet. He asked to be allowed to speak. But the time was up, and the

Handwritten notes: "can this really be true?", "can the aliens be mistreated?"