

Today in History, Jan. 16

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The Tsar bomb casing on display in Chelyabinsk

Fifty-one years ago today, on Jan. 16, 1963, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union had put the hydrogen bomb into service, giving the country a lead on the U.S. in the arms race. The 1961 test detonation of the so-called Tsar Bomb sent a mushroom cloud 67 kilometers into the sky and emitted radiation that caused severe burns within a 100 kilometer radius of the explosion's epicenter.

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