

JAN 13 1966

# UNICEF Investigates Reports Soviet Employee Sought to Buy Missile Parts

By SAM POPE BREWER

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 12 — The United Nations Children's Fund began an investigation tonight into charges that one of its Soviet employes had tried to buy missile components that are restricted by the United States for security reasons.

Vadim Isakov, a procurement officer for UNICEF, was accused by a New Jersey dealer in surplus government equipment of having tried to buy items used in space vehicles and other research.

Leonard Epstein, vice president of the Trans-American Machinery & Equipment Corporation in Paterson, N. J., told a reporter that he and the

company's president George Yohrling, were approached in June by Mr. Isakov. His work for the agency involves buying laboratory supplies.

After a visit to the Soviet Union during the summer Mr. Isakov returned in September, Mr. Epstein said, with a detailed list of equipment he wanted for "a customer."

## Say He Had Model Numbers

Mr. Epstein said he and Mr. Yohrling became suspicious because of Mr. Isakov's evident ignorance about the use of the equipment, although he had detailed information on numbers and manufacturers.

The businessmen reported their suspicions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and said that they had continued

to be in close touch with Federal agents.

The New York office of the F.B.I. said that it had "no comment whatsoever" to make on the account, which was given to newspapers by Mr. Yohrling and Mr. Epstein.

Mr. Isakov's office said that he had been there earlier in the day but had left and that it was not known where he could be reached.

An agency spokesman said: "We have nothing so far but newspaper allegations, but we are conducting a complete investigation and are in consultation with both the United States and the Soviet missions."

He noted that reports in The New York Journal-American had not asserted that any crime had been committed but said, "If

the statements are true, there will have been administrative violations."

Among the items Mr. Isakov is said to have attempted to buy were an "underwater robot," six accelerometers, which are tiny instruments used in missiles for delicate measurements of changes in direction and velocity, and a miniature computer of a type used in space shots.

Mr. Epstein said Mr. Isakov had originally sought to buy second-hand machinery, used to make tiny screws that had been discarded by the Elgin Watch company.

Mr. Isakov, who is 35 years old, has been employed by the agency since February, 1962.

A statement issued tonight by the agency's director, Henry R. Labouisse, said: "We know nothing of these charges, but would be greatly concerned if there were any substance to them."

Mr. Labouisse added: "No one in UNICEF has any authority whatsoever to make purchases of the type referred to in the newspaper allegations. Actions of the type alleged would not be protected by any United Nations privilege or immunity and, if established, would be grounds for termination by UNICEF."

## U.S. Checking on Case

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—A State Department spokesman said today that the United States Government had been checking on the reported activities of Mr. Isakov but had reached no judgment on whether he had violated United States laws.

The spokesman said the department had heard reports some time ago of Mr. Isakov's activities but was still "endeavoring to obtain the pertinent facts." The investigation is being carried out by the Justice Department.

The business men discovered at that time that some of their equipment should never have been put on the market. It was then withdrawn. Other items sought by Mr. Isakov were not restricted as to sale to Americans but cannot be exported.