

## Will Russians Return To Waterview, Md., Only as a Last Resort?

Residents Didn't Take Kindly  
To the Diplomats on Vacation  
This Year; Rumors & Rocks

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WATERVIEW, Md.—Hey, Hollywood baby, here's an idea for a zany movie:

Take a bunch of mysterious Russians and have them rent for the summer an old hotel in this faded resort town near the Chesapeake Bay. Then circulate a bunch of rumors—that Russian submarines were sneaking up the Nanticoke River here (which is navigable for small craft only) or that the Russians planned to surround the hotel with a nine-foot, electrified fence patrolled by vicious dogs.

Place a Navy installation nearby, throw in a lot of colorful townfolk—including, of course, a retired CIA man—give the film a catchy title (perhaps *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!*) and you've got yourself a surefire boxoffice boffo. Will you buy that, Hollywood?

If so, better call it a documentary.

For it's all true. All these things have happened here in Waterview (population: About a dozen families) and the surrounding area. The Russians are diplomats from Washington who rented the 28-room hotel so that their children could spend the summer in the country. The kids have been here since June and they're leaving next week. The parents have spent weekends here.

### The CIA Man's Theory

It has been a funny summer. Many area residents, who seem to be suspicious of all outsiders, found it hard to believe that the Russians were here merely for rest and relaxation. They found all kinds of other motives, especially since the Navy had a facility on nearby Bloodsworth Island where it conducted bombing and target practice.

"It's obvious the Russians are using the hotel for espionage purposes," says W. Emmett Andrews, 67, who has a summer place near here and who describes himself as a retired "senior editor" from the Central Intelligence Agency. "Using fishing boats as a cover, they're watching the bombing and shelling of Bloodsworth Island. I have proof that one third of the bombs dropped on one target were duds. We don't want the Russians to know this."

(In reply, a Defense Department spokesman scoffs: "There's nothing secret going on at the island. And a lot of the shells we use are purposely built not to explode. This way we can see exactly where they land.")

"The Russians shouldn't have been allowed to lease land where they can't be supervised," complains Robert D. Massicot, a retired businessman whose property abuts that of the hotel. "You can see the Russian flag flying, and the kids lined up militarily." (A recent visitor to the hotel saw no Russian flag—or electric fences or vicious dogs or military formations.) A local merchant, one of 20 volunteer firemen invited to a party by the Russians, says "there are rumors that by socializing with them I may have hurt my business."

Rep. Rogers Morton, the area's Congressman, has received about 20 letters from constituents complaining about letting the Russians come here. He assured the letter writers that the site has been cleared by the CIA, the FBI and the Defense Department.

One stormy night in late June, the Russians called Maryland State Police to report that a man was pelting the hotel with rocks. The investigating officer says at least one rock bounced off the front door. No damage was done, however, and the culprit wasn't identified.

### "A Patriotic Jackass"

But not everyone here sees the Russians as villains. "I think those Russian children are scared half to death," says William R. Billard, a retired marine engineer. "Imagine! Some patriotic jackass threw rocks at the place! That gives the youngsters a wonderful idea of what we're like. If we could just reach some sort of understanding with the Russians, then both our nations could disregard each other's politicians."

Fifteen-year-old James Webster Jr. is getting to know the visitors. He spends three days a week teaching English to seven Russian children, and he also taught a Soviet embassy official how to water ski.

The diplomats have been very diplomatic about how they have enjoyed their summer here. "The people have been very friendly," says a Russian embassy spokesman in Washington, "and we tried to abide by the traditions and customs of the area." But the Russians haven't yet said if they'll be back next year.

Even if they come back next year, though, the Russians still may not be readily accepted. It's not only that they're Russians, says one native, but they're outsiders. "Folks here tend to be suspicious of change and outsiders," he says. "In fact, to lots of people here, even someone from Baltimore is a foreigner."