

NOV 15 1965

On Several Fronts

Penkovsky Dispute Continues to Boil

The Washington Post today concludes publication on Page A23, of the Penkovsky Papers around which has swirled much controversy as to their source and authenticity.

The Soviet Union on Saturday protested the publication. In addition, a letter to the editor of The Washington Post from the Soviet embassy, printed today on Page A21, calls the papers "a crude forgery cooked up two years after Penkovsky's conviction by those whom the exposed spy served."

The Washington Post also is printing, on Page A22, the first of two articles by Victor Zorza, Soviet affairs expert of The Manchester Guardian, analyzing the papers. He writes that "the book itself contains the evidence showing certain parts of it to be a forgery even though other sections of the book are evidently made up of intelligence information provided by Penkovsky long before his arrest."

Last month Zorza had writ-

ten Vladimir E. Semichastny, chairman of the Soviet State Security Committee, asking for evidence to support the charge that the papers were forgeries. On Saturday an official from the Soviet embassy in London asked to meet Zorza and declared that the book is "a fabrication from beginning to end."

Zorza said the official gave only one piece of evidence—an inconsistency of dates. At one point Penkovsky had said that recruitment of Communist Party members in the West for work with Soviet intelligence had resumed in 1956-57. At another point it said this occurred in 1960.

Officials at the Central Intelligence Agency, whose agents dealt with and interrogated Penkovsky before his arrest, say that they read the papers only to determine whether their publication would compromise intelligence sources. They refuse to pass judgment for the press on authenticity.

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