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World News Briefs

U.S. Embassy in Moscow Removes a Radio Antenna

MOSCOW, Nov. 13 (AP)—American technicians have removed an antenna from the roof of the United States Embassy, 17 months after discovering that it was sending high-frequency radio signals into a telephone on the American ambassador's desk.

The radio signals were discovered during radiation monitoring prompted by Soviet bombardment of the Embassy with microwaves, informed sources said. However, State Department officials waited 17 months before removing the loop-shaped antenna, reportedly because they did not want the Russians to use it as an excuse for attributing the microwave bombardment to United States equipment.

"When we did realize this was happening, we were afraid that the Soviets would more or less use it against us as a political move, saying we were inducing these signals onto ourselves," one American source said.

Instead of moving the antenna immediately, State Department officials ordered special filters installed on the affected telephone lines last winter to block out the high-frequency signals.

The antenna was removed from the roof of the Embassy's south wing during recent rebuilding work carried out to repair damage in the upper floors of the 10-story structure caused by a fire in late August.

The antenna was situated less than 20 feet from the ambassador's office on the ninth floor. The sources said the proximity reproduced the radio signals from the transmitter through the telephone lines even though there was no physical connection.