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Soviet Denies U.S. Embassy Health Risk

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 18 — The newspaper Izvestia said today that Soviet and American representatives had made joint checks for radiation at the United States Embassy in Moscow and had found no danger to health.

The Government paper did not deny the presence of microwave emission's nor did it explicitly refute allegations that the emissions were linked to Soviet devices to monitor conversations in the Embassy. The issue of bugging was not mentioned.

Asked about the Izvestia article and the reported checks, a spokesman for the United States Embassy replied "no comment," maintaining the policy of silence imposed on the embassy by Washington when the issue first became public 10 days ago.

Unofficially, embassy sources have told some reporters that microwave radiation, whose biological effects are little known, had been detected on the upper floors of the nine-story embassy building, concentrated on the ambassador's office and other key areas. Radiation was also reported found in some apartments in the complex occupied by embassy employees and their families.

'A Strange Sensation'

The microwaves are believed to activate or recharge batteries in bugging devices concealed in walls, floors and ceilings. Another theory is that the waves are directed against windows to pick up voice vibrations on the glass and transmit them some distance to a receiver and amplifier.

According to some reports, the United States has discussed the issue with the Soviet Union, hoping to resolve it quietly. One American official said last week that such a solution was possible.

Without addressing itself to the question of monitoring, Izvestia denounced such reports as "a strange sensation."

"Needless to say, all this is a trumped-up story from beginning to end," the paper declared.

It suggested that the emissions could come from various sources.

"A certain electromagnetic field may develop in the func-

tioning of radio and television stations, other means of communication and some industrial enterprises," Izvestia said. "In big cities its level can fluctuate in various districts of the city depending on the presence of some or other industrial enterprises. There is nothing unusual about it. It is a physical phenomenon known to every schoolchild."

The paper commented: "The building of the U.S. Embassy is equipped like a ship with numerous antennas and large-sized installations. It is clear even to a person who

is not expert in these things that the use of such installations may be a source that increases the general level of the electromagnetic field above and on the premises where they are installed. Izvestia expressed the view that the allegations, which became known after embassy employees had been briefed by Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel Jr., had been leaked to the press by sources "that oppose the course of maintaining and developing good, normal relations between the U.S.S.R. and the United States."

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