

Page Denied

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT
September 29, 1986

U.S. Embassy is surveillance target No. 1



The new U.S. Embassy is being built on a low, vulnerable site

Watchword for foreigners in Moscow: The walls have ears

Moscow
Relentless Soviet scrutiny of Nicholas Daniloff did not end when he moved from prison to the U.S. Embassy. The KGB can still watch and listen through an Orwellian surveillance net covering all Westerners—though none so stiflingly as those judged especially suspect.

At the American Embassy in Moscow, U.S. technicians ceaselessly search for electronic bugs planted in equipment and walls.

[For ultrasensitive conversations, the embassy has at least one windowless room that has been encased in a shell impenetrable to listening devices, sources in Washington say. Kept free of air-conditioning vents as an extra precaution, the room can be unbearably stuffy.]

U.S. diplomats once complained



In Soviet Union, a yellow license plate with K 004 identifies U.S. correspondent

that the KGB had sprinkled offices with "spy dust" to track people by telltale residue. On another occasion, the U.S. found devices in electronic typewriters that transmitted what was typed to receivers in nearby walls—and then to Soviet agents outside. Diplomats routinely protest the health threat from microwaves aimed at disrupting Soviet electronic surveillance.

The problems may worsen when the U.S. moves into a new embassy next year—thanks to a bad U.S.-Soviet deal made years ago. The site,

one of the lowest points in the city, is surrounded by tall buildings. This will make it harder for the embassy to eavesdrop on communications in Moscow, while making it easier for the Soviets to spy on the Americans. In contrast, a new U.S.S.R. Embassy in the U.S. sits on one of Washington's highest hills, again giving the Soviets the advantage.

As construction of a new American Embassy continues, listening devices are regularly discovered. Sources say steel bought from Soviet firms is riddled with devices implanted during casting. As a result, extra crews have flown in from the U.S. to finish the work.

The usual suspects in most bugging are the 200 Soviet citizens who work in the embassy and Leningrad consul general in low-level jobs. They could be fired—no Americans work in the Soviet Embassy in the United States. But replacing them with U.S. citizens has been ruled out, at least for now, as too costly.

Outside the embassy, most foreigners are housed in one of 20 buildings scattered around Moscow. Militiamen guard floodlit gates, ostensibly to protect occupants from crime but actually to discourage Soviet visitors and record Westerners' movements.

Tenants assume their apartments are bugged. And foreigners who try to evade scrutiny are easy to follow, since their cars bear distinctive plates—red for diplomats, yellow for business people and journalists. A yellow plate with a K and the numbers 004 means a U.S. reporter.

by Jeff Trimble

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT 6 Oct. 86

America's white elephant in Moscow

The new U.S. Embassy being built in Moscow is so riddled with Soviet eavesdropping equipment and structural flaws that construction may be halted indefinitely, threatening a fresh snag in U.S.-Soviet relations.

The seriousness of the problems, unmasked by U.S. investigators combing the eight-story building in September, prompted the State Department to agree to congressional demands for a top-to-bottom inspection by outside experts.

Sophisticated listening devices have been implanted in everything from pre-cast floors and prefabricated concrete columns to steel beams. Congressional investigators also think the structure is dangerously flawed because little, if any, lime was used in mortar cementing the brick facade and frame, raising fears that it will absorb moisture, freeze and crumble.

Alarmed by reports from the latest on-site inspections, Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) seeks to mandate suspension of work pending review of the project, which, along with other buildings in the complex, is already five years behind schedule and \$80 million over budget. Some experts on Capitol Hill and in the CIA are even lobbying behind the scenes for demolition of the building, *U.S. News & World Report* has learned.

"We have two choices," says Representative Dan Mica (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Operations: The embassy "can be made secure or we will have to blow it up." The State Department is worried that lawmakers, in pushing to hold up completion of the embassy, will complicate East-West diplomacy.

There is "overreaction" in Congress, declares Ronald Spiers, under secretary of state for management. "We are very aware of the problems, and we have plans to deal with them."

Soviet families have moved into the new U.S.S.R. Embassy in Washington. But, by agreement, Soviet diplomats cannot occupy their offices in the compound until work is finished on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Some estimates now suggest it will be 1989—and perhaps much later—before that happens.

by Steven Emerson

WASHINGTON TIMES 29 SEP 1986 Pg.12

Embassy in Moscow infested with 'bugs'

By Richard Beeston
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The unfinished U.S. Embassy in Moscow is suffering from a severe plague of bugs — the electronic variety.

The listening devices have been discovered in steel girders supplied by Soviet firms, according to U.S. officials, who say they were implanted during the casting.

U.S. News & World Report, whose Moscow correspondent Nicholas Daniloff has been accused of espionage by Soviet authorities, said yesterday that extra crews have been flown in from the United States to finish the work after construction was delayed by discovery of the bugs.

A Soviet microphone was once found hidden in the U.S. seal above the ambassador's desk in the present embassy, and electronic devices capable of transmitting what was

typed were found in embassy typewriters.

The site of the new U.S. embassy in Moscow is on low-lying land.

In a much-criticized decision, however, the United States has permitted the Soviet Union to build its new embassy in Washington on high ground. It is located on Wisconsin Avenue above Georgetown — overlooking the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department — an ideal arrangement for eavesdropping.

But the vast white fortress where most Soviet diplomats and staff will eventually live has had problems of its own.

During the early stages of construction, Soviet supervisors found that a large quantity of concrete had been poured by an American construction company into the foundations without embassy supervision.

Fearing bugs, they ordered it removed, and the foundations had to be repoured.

Washington Times
30 September 1986

Tough on buggers

"Now is the time for Congress to get tough with the Soviet 'buggers.' Enough is enough," said Rep. William Broomfield, Michigan Republican. He introduced a resolution to put Congress on record as opposing any use of the new Soviet Embassy in Washington until the bugging problem is solved at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

"According to recent accounts, State Department technicians found electronic devices planted in the precast pillars, floors and walls of the U.S. chancery in Moscow. As construction of the new building continues, listening devices are regularly discovered implanted in walls, steel beams and other equipment," said Mr. Broomfield in a statement.

The Soviet Embassy in Washington has been completed but cannot be occupied until the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is finished, under an agreement reached by the State Department and the Soviets. The U.S. Embassy is already five years behind a schedule that called for completion in 1981.

Washington Post 28 September 86

Moscow Embassy Work May Halt Over Implanted Listening Devices

United Press International

Work may have to be halted indefinitely on the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow because "sophisticated listening devices have been implanted in everything," U.S. News & World Report reported yesterday.

The news magazine, in its Oct. 6 issue, said the seriousness of the problems was unmasked by U.S. investigators combing the eight-story building in September.

The State Department was prompted to agree to congressional demands for a top-to-bottom inspection by outside experts.

Construction of the embassy is five years behind schedule and \$80

million over budget. Some experts in the intelligence community suggest that the \$167 million building may have to be demolished before it is completed.

"Sophisticated listening devices have been implanted in everything from precast floors and prefabricated concrete columns to steel beams," the magazine said.

The new problems with the embassy could further complicate relations between the two countries. Soviet families have moved into a new embassy complex in Washington but, by agreement, diplomats cannot occupy offices there until work is finished on the U.S. facility in Moscow.