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Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, at left, looks as United States Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge shows the United Nations Security Council in New York a listening device which Lodge said Soviet authorities had planted in the office of the American Ambassador in Moscow.

Assisting Lodge is Richard Pedersen, of the U. S. delegation. In center at table is Sir Pierson Dixon, and behind Gromyko (laughing, with hand to mouth) is Arkady Sobolev, Soviet delegate to the U. N. The device was concealed in a replica of the United States Seal.



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Ambassador Lodge, left, shows equipment which was concealed in the carving. The replica of the Great Seal of the United States was a gift to a U. S. Ambassador.

'Bugged' Eagle Is Prize Exhibit In Anti-Spy 'Chamber of Horrors'

By Warren Rogers Jr.
Herald Tribune News Service

The "bugged" eagle displayed yesterday at the United Nations as evidence of Soviet spying was one of the toughest cases ever cracked by American counter-espionage agents.

The reason is that the hidden microphone was extremely small and used no wiring. Even today it is considered to be an extremely advanced piece of electronic equipment.

The eagle, part of a 2-foot wooden replica of the Great Seal of the United States, came from an underground room in Washington called "the Chamber of Horrors" by State Department security men. The eagle is the Chamber's prize exhibit, but there are many others.

Ferret Out 'Bugs'

This reporter toured the basement, which is kept locked under maximum security. There is even a peephole in the door.

Two men, whose names cannot be disclosed, work among the subterranean treasures. Their job is to tinker with the captured cameras, radios, transmitters, wire recorders and so on, and to try to figure out a defense against them. They have developed elaborate devices to ferret out hidden microphones and transmitters.

These men are among the more than 300 employees of

the State Department Office of Security.

About 80 of the office's 300 employees work abroad, and 20 of those 80 are electronic specialists. The job of these specialists is to tap walls, test locks, search ceilings, dismantle electrical sockets, tear down telephones—in short to go over every inch of buildings occupied by American officials.

In Iron Curtain countries, they make such exhaustive checks whenever a new building is acquired and frequently thereafter. In Czechoslovakia one time, when the American military attache rented a house, the security check turned up 14 hidden microphones.

State Department personnel, office help as well as top diplomats, are taken to the "Chamber of Horrors" before being sent on Iron Curtain assignments.

There, they are shown what to expect when they get to their posts. They see telephones, radios, books, purses, light sockets, lamps, wall pictures, doors, windows and many other seemingly innocent paraphernalia of everyday life.

They are challenged sometimes to try to find the hidden microphone. Often they cannot. The security men then point it out to them. The best available recollections here are that the Great Seal replica was given to Averell Harriman in late 1945

or early 1946, when he was ambassador to Moscow. It was not unmasked as a listening device until 1952, according to these informants.

By that time it had hung on the wall through at least four American ambassadors—Harriman, Walter Bedell Smith, Alan G. Kirk, and George F. Kennan. It was taken, officials said, from the office of the ambassador's residence, Spasso House, and not from the Embassy itself.

[The story of the microphone hidden in the Great Seal was first reported in The Washington Post by columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop on Oct. 30, 1955. They reported that a routine inspection of the American Embassy in Moscow in 1952 revealed the matchbox-sized device which had been broadcasting Ambassador Kennan's private conversations for many months to listening Soviet ears.]

[Kennan yesterday declined to discuss the incident in detail, saying he was not sure what particulars still might be classified.]

In New York, Harriman confirmed that he had received the replica as a gift in 1945 from a Soviet official but did not think it was bugged at that time, United Press International reported. There have been reports that the spying device may have been installed when the replica was sent out later to be refurbished.