

'Bug' Problems In the Embassy

By HENRY S. BRADSHER
Star Staff Writer

As bugs get better, building American embassies in Communist countries gets tougher.

The danger of having bug microphones for spying—built into a new embassy is only one of the problems facing the U.S. government as it seeks better facilities in Moscow.

There are problems of poor construction quality and seemingly endless obstructions in the Soviet Union.

The Americans in their inadequate old apartment house on Chaykovskovo Ulitsa in west central Moscow and the Soviets in their cramped old tsarist-looking mansion on 16th Street in downtown Washington have both long been wanting new embassies.

After years of troubles, including the refusal of some Washington residents to let a bunch of card-carrying Communists live in their midst, things are finally moving. Slowly.

Sites for the new embassies have finally been found. But sticky details of construction methods and scheduling remain to be settled.

They are supposed to be settled by Sept. 13 in negotiations that have been dragging on for years, but it probably will be at least two years before work begins.

On May 16 the two governments agreed to exchange 65-year leases on sites.

The Soviets were promised 12.6 acres between Wisconsin avenue and Tunlaw Road, the site of the old Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital. The steep, wooded tract is estimated to be worth between \$7 million and \$10 million.

The Americans are to get 10.15 acres in a Soviet slum clearance project a block behind the present Moscow embassy.

The trade also includes the 1.78 acres about half a mile away on which sits Spaso House, the old tsarist merchant's mansion that has served as the U.S. ambassador's residence since the 1930s. The impressive, recently refurbished house itself—not the land—is rented for \$16,000 a year, a figure subject to renegotiation in 1968.

Complexes Expected

Both countries are expected to build complexes of office buildings, residences and related facilities.

The State Department is thinking about a tall chancery building near a front corner of its roughly rectangular site on Konyushkovskaya Ulitsa.

Other things within a security fence are pretty well dictated by Moscow's housing shortage, inadequate stores and other factors that make it a tough place for American diplomats. Tentatively planned are several apartment units, a school

either could go ahead to the next phase.

This would give the U.S. government some leverage to get cooperation from Soviet authorities, who have been considered very difficult by other nations building embassies in Moscow recently.

Within 120 days of the May 16 site exchange agreement, on Sept. 13, conditions of construction are supposed to be worked out. The possibility of disagreements looms.

The Soviets are not expected to like the phasing idea. And they might not want to let in as many American workmen or building materials as the old hands are inclined to think they need.

American officials might be willing to let the Soviets build the frameworks of buildings, but they would like to have imported workmen do the rest for two reasons.

Quality Factor

One is quality. Most recent Soviet construction has a quality known to foreign residents of Moscow as "instant slums."

The shoppiece new buildings there, the Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin and the headquarters of the Communist nations' economic organization near the new U.S. site, were built by imported Italian and East European workmen—a point the Russians usually forget to mention when showing off the buildings.

The other reason is bugging.

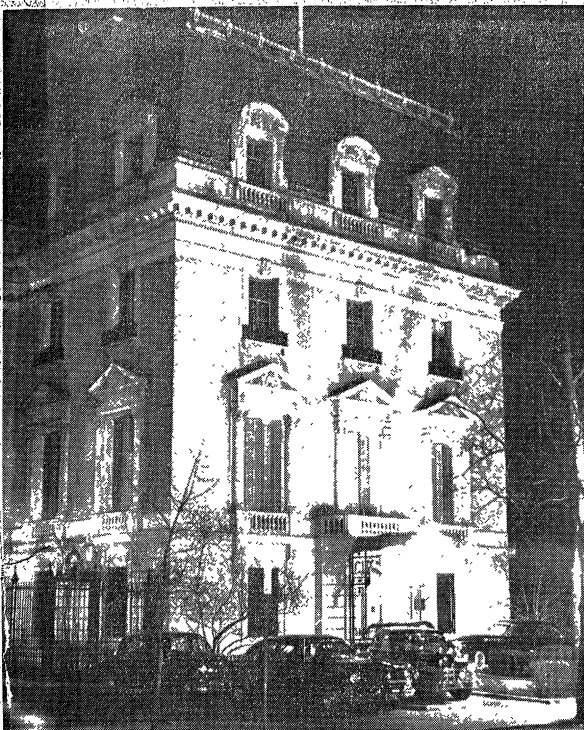
The present American embassy in Moscow has been in use for more than a decade, and had been repeatedly searched for bugs, before an extensive system of them was discovered deep in the walls. The usual checks for metallic objects had missed the wooden tubing leading to microphones planted more than a foot into plaster.

A new U.S. Embassy was built in Warsaw some years ago under close surveillance of Americans. Only a few years later it was discovered that the heating system made and installed by Polish workmen was one vast listening network.

Even after permanently installed bugs have been dug out of walls and heating systems, it remains easy for workmen or maids to introduce new ones. Westerners in Moscow assume they can be overheard almost anywhere they talk, rather than assuming that a debugging operation offers security.

Big Western embassies in Moscow have special rooms for secret discussions that are protected by elaborate electronic "walls" within the rooms. Several are likely to be included in plans for the new U.S. embassy.

The old hands assume the Soviets are developing improved new ways of building bugs into construction materials in ways that make them



The Russian Embassy here

Star Staff



The American Embassy in Moscow

Chiang Kai-shek's Son Step Closer to Succession

ARTZENHUSCHI
and Writer
Chiang-kuo, a
hair for soft
has moved
his fe-
regist



come from," people here say. "It is still home to us. Naturally, we hope to go back some day."
Chiang Ching-kuo is the son of Chiang Kai-shek's first wife, who was killed in a Japanese air raid. He went to Russia in 1928—as an 18-year-old boy—at a time his father was engaging in his first battles against the Chinese Communists. Young Chiang worked in a Siberian coal mine, married a Russian girl whom he met in the Urals, and studied at Moscow's Sun Yat-sen Univer

Death of Mboya May Alter Kenya

By HENRY REUTER
Special to The Star

NAIROBI—Events in Kenya since the assassination of Tom Mboya indicate that 78-year-old Jomo Kenyatta, the country's president and possibly the most admired and respected of all Africa's leaders, is now facing the biggest challenge of his turbulent political career.

"As one African writer put it recently: 'The big question used to be: 'Who is the big man? The big

