

STAT

Soviet Offer May End Deadlock on Embassies

24 Sept Wash State (?)

State Department officials said yesterday the Soviet Union has offered what appears to be a satisfactory site for a new American embassy building in Moscow.

The Soviet offer could lead to a breakthrough in the long-standing U.S.-Russian deadlock over new embassies in their respective capitals.

Each country has found its existing embassy space too small for the increasing amount of diplomatic and other operations carried out, but neither has been willing to grant more space to the other without reciprocity.

9.6-Acre Tract

The Soviet offer in Moscow was described as a 9.6-acre tract sloping toward Moskva River. It is just behind the present U.S. Embassy, a former apartment building, the Associated Press reported.

It was not immediately known what site, if any, had been agreed upon for a new Soviet embassy in Washington.

The Russians, who now have a modest-size embassy in an aging building at 1125 16th St. NW. here, have been interested in some larger sites farther from the city center.

One is the former Mt. Alto Veterans Administration Hospital on a rise north of central Georgetown in the 2600 block of Wisconsin Avenue NW.

Davies Estate

Another is Tregaron, the 20.5-acre Cleveland Park estate of the late Ambassador Joseph E. Davies.

Tregaron is at 3029 Klinge Road NW., and is bounded on three sides by parkland and the Nationalist Chinese Embassy.

On April 14, 1967, Juli Vorontsov, counselor of the Soviet Embassy, confirmed that the Russians had expressed a preference for Tregaron over the Mt. Alto site.

The heirs to the Davies estate reportedly have offered the Tregaron site for sale for \$3.5 million.