

Russia Tells Afro-Asians It Won't

By Louis B. Fleming
The Los Angeles Times

United Nations, Sept. 8—The Soviet Union told Afro-Asian members of the United Nations today that it will never pay its peace-keeping debts to the world organization and added a hint that any effort to force the issue would destroy the United Nations.

Ambassador Platon D. Morozov, deputy permanent representative of the Soviet Union, made a tough, uncompromising speech to the representatives of the 55 African and Asian nations.

The United States will join the debate Thursday with an appearance before the Afro-Asian group.

Morozov's speech confirmed earlier indications that the Soviet Union and the United States are on a collision course which could wreck the U.N.

Thant to Speak

The Soviets are insisting that they will not pay and must not be forced to pay. The United States is insisting that the Soviet Union lose its vote in the General Assembly, under provisions of U.N. Charter Article 19, if it does not pay.

The Assembly's special 21-nation Finance Committee will reopen efforts to find some compromise Wednesday at a formal meeting at which

Secretary General U Thant is scheduled to speak. He is understood to be planning an urgent appeal for action.

The secretary general also has indicated that he may offer a compromise of his own if the committee of 21 is unable to work out a generally acceptable peace-keeping fin-

ance plan before the General Assembly convenes in mid-November.

Prospects for a compromise at this time appear dim, however. The Soviets are understood to have told Thant in Moscow in July that they would walk out of the U.N. if they lost their vote.

Pay U.N. Debts

President Johnson was equally determined in a private White House talk with Thant in August, insisting that Article 19 be applied, and subsequent congressional action has made the American position virtually inflexible by endorsing application of the charter penalty to delinquents.

Morozov made no specific reference to the threatened Soviet walkout in his speech to the Afro-Asian group today, and one ambassador attending the closed meeting said that there were indications that the Soviets would avoid any explicit threat to quit if they lose in the showdown.

Anxiety was created among the delegates at the meeting

today by the Soviet's veiled threat that application of Article 19 would destroy the United Nations.

Morozov did not say so in so many words, but he pointedly told the Africans and Asians that the League of Nations had sounded its own death knell by applying sanctions against its own members.

Owes \$15.6 Million

Once again, the Soviet representative insisted that the peace-keeping assessments against the Soviet Union were illegal because they had not been approved by the Security Council.

He cited the new convul-

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sions in the Congo to support the Soviet contention that the U.N. peace-keeping operation there was actually an arm of Western imperialism.

The Soviet Union owes \$15.6 million for the U.N. peace-keeping operation in the Congo which ended last June 30. Moscow sent a check for \$2,719,000 to the U.N. last month to cover its regular U.N. budget assessments.

About a dozen members of the U.N. now face loss of their vote when the Assembly convenes because they owe the equivalent of two years of assessments. The list was shortened over the weekend by payment of \$39,208 by Guatemala,

relieving it of jeopardy under Article 19.

The special 21-nation Finance Committee is working on a compromise assessment plan for future peace-keeping operations which could become the basis of a settlement with the Soviet Union. The plan may be made public next Monday.