

Post 1/1/64

Soviet Again Accuses AF of Buzzing Ships

From News Dispatches

MOSCOW, Aug. 7 — The Soviet Union has again charged that U.S. Air Force planes have been buzzing Russian ships in international waters, it was disclosed today.

The protest was contained in a Foreign Ministry note handed to the United States Embassy on Monday. It reiterated complaints that the Soviets have made repeatedly in the past and dealt with alleged incidents that took place before the incidents of the last week between U.S. and North Vietnamese forces off the coast of Viet-Nam.

In the note, whose contents were released by Tass, the Russians said Soviet passenger ships and freighters had been buzzed in the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Mediterranean, the North Sea "and other seas." It called on the United

States to halt what is called "dangerous and provocative" acts.

The Kremlin note also charged that on July 21 a U.S. warship maneuvered for more than three hours around the Soviet passenger ship Gruzia as it sailed toward Cuba.

The American warship, the note said, "not only obstructed the progress of the Gruzia but also created a danger of collision, jeopardizing the lives of the passengers."

(In Washington, the State Department acknowledged that it had received the buzzing protest. Press officer Robert J. McCloskey said the allegations were being investigated and that the United States would reply to the note.)