Reds' Visas **Blocked by** AFL-CIO

Soviet Labor Group **Exchange Thwarted** By State Dept. Aide

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld Washington Post Staff Writer

The AFL-CIO, working through the State Department, has kept a Soviet labor group from coming to the United States on an exchange set up by a private American organization.

This is the most recent instance of an AFL-CIO block being placed across one of the "bridges" President Johnson says he would like to build to Communist countries.

It also helped determine United Auto Workers Presi-dent Walter P. Reuther, earli-er this week, to level an un-precedented public challenge to George Meany, head of the 13-million-member, politically powerful labor federation.

Objects to Boycott

Reuther specifically objected to the AFL-CIO boycott of an International Labor Organization conference in Geneva, after a Pole was elected its first Communist president last week.

Meany held public silence yesterday on Reuther's challange.

Nor would Meany comment on Geneva press reports that the AFL-CIO was contemplating a break with the ILO, a special United Nations agency. The labor delegation is expected to leave Geneva today."

Visas Denied

The thwarted labor exchange was worked out by a private New York based group, the Citizen Exchange Corps, headed by adman Stephen D. James. Eight Rusadman sians were to arrive June 6. On June 2, James said, he learned their visa applica-tions had been denied.

High Department sources made clear that AFL-CIO pressure was responsible for the denial. The Department's See EXCHANGE, A6, Col. 1

stated reason for the rejectican University. Said to be tion mirrored the AFL-CIO the only Communist union stand: that the Soviet group leader to get an American included some union officials; visa since the war, the Yudishalo towist visas they goslav was received informaldividual tourist visas, they goslav was received informal-were in fact a union delega- ly by the UAW. tion; and that admitting them sians.

troit programs, are now lobbying for their visas in Upper Washington echelons.

Other Grievances

detente-minded union active-part and long-lasting foe, Vic-ly bucking the cold-war poli- tor Reuther, of being "incies of the AFL-CIO, has other grievances:

• The Federation throttled a proposal by the American Ambassador to Poland, John A. Gronouski, to send some Polish-speaking unionists from his home state of Wisconsin to Poland.

 It warned locals to avoid a visiting Yugoslav union official last year and reportedly job, Delaney formerly was an blocked a contemplated appearance by the man at Amer-

stated reason for the rejectican University. Said to be

• The AFL-CIO has stifled would equate Soviet and internal State Department ef-American unions and lend un-forts to funnel some of the justified status to the Rus- American Government's foreign labor activities through Angry UAW officials, who separate American unions, in-had informally arranged the stead of continuing to funnel Russians' Washington and Dethem all through the AFL-CIO.

Sitting there as Meany's director of international affairs is Jay Lovestone, an ardent anti-Communist accused re-The UAW, the single big cently by his UAW countertor Reuther, of being "in-volved" with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Nominated by Meany

Sitting at the State Department end of the labor-government conduit is George P. Delaney, Special Assistant to the Secretary and Coordinator of International Labor Affairs. Nominated by Meany for his AFL-CIO international representative.

Delaney is one of two U.S. Government delegates to the Geneva ILO conference. Labor and business put up their own delegates. The U.S. pays the way for them all.

A State Department spokesman was asked yesterday whether Delaney was backing the AFL-CIO conference boy-cott or the U.S. Government position, which is to accept the tripartite delegation but to be against the boycott. The spokesman said "nobody knows" Delaney's position but it was "assumed" he supported the Government.

It is through Delaney that the AFL-CIO recommends candidates for the 80-odd labor attache posts in U.S. Embassies. Union sources say the attaches are generally union men dependent not on State but on the AFL-CIO for their careers.

That is why, informed critics say, the attaches tend to show the AFL-CIO distaste for unions it considers Communist or Communist-tainted, and why more Embassy overtures are not made to the democratic left abroad.