

Reds Issue New Blast Laid to Koch

MOSCOW, Sept. 17 (AP) American defector Harold M. Koch issued a statement today, according to Soviet authorities, condemning the United States for its role in the Vietnam war and calling the Soviet Union a "country which symbolizes peace and equality for all."

The statement, put out by the Soviet news agency, Tass, was the first word from Koch since he assailed the United States on Moscow television Tuesday. The statement repeated and elaborated on charges he made earlier.

The 34-year-old teacher is a former Roman Catholic priest from the Chicago archdiocese. The Soviet Foreign Ministry announced Monday that he had sought political asylum in Russia.

Since his defection the U.S.

Embassy has been unsuccessful in trying to contact him, and he has not been available to Western correspondents. His whereabouts and activities are not known.

"I totally disagree with the policies of the Johnson Administration," the Koch statement said.

He said once again that he came here "as a protest against the unjust war the American leaders are waging against the Vietnamese people.

"We have a situation in America where literally the entire American people have voted for peace, or at least for nonescalation of the Vietnam war. And the American leaders, notably Johnson, McNamara and the military-industrial complex, have led them into war.

"So for all practical purposes Johnson is acting the part of Goldwater and not the role voted him by the American people. One would conclude then that in the last election Americans, who have always boasted of their two-party system, had no real choice."

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, a conservative Republican, was Mr. Johnson's opponent in the 1964 presidential election.