

Johnson Asks Senate to Ratify Consular Treaty With Russians

Post 2/3/67
President Johnson urged the Senate yesterday to ratify the consular treaty with the Soviet Union "to help protect American citizens" traveling in Russia.

The treaty raises no problem with respect "to our national security," Mr. Johnson said at his news conference.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has assured him that

the small increase in Soviet officials who might be sent to the United States raises "no problems which the FBI cannot effectively and efficiently deal with," Mr. Johnson said.

The Senate last year deferred action on the treaty after Hoover said it would increase surveillance difficulties for the FBI.

There now are 452 Soviet of-

ficials in this country, and if another consulate is opened only 10 or 15 more would be sent here, the President said.

"We need this treaty to protect the 18,000 American citizens who each year travel from this country to the Soviet Union," the President said.

The treaty will insure the right of American officials to visit any American arrested in Russia within four days and as often as is desirable.

The President opened his news conference by saying he had been asked to make a statement on the pending treaty, which requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate for ratification. It is understood that the request came from Sen. Thruston B. Morton (R-Ky.), who has been active in support of the treaty.

On Capitol Hill, it was announced that spokesmen for the Liberty Lobby, the American Legion and the Ukrainian Congress Committee would testify on the proposed treaty today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

When a reporter asked Mr. Johnson his relations with Congress, the President said he expected the 90th to be "a
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