

U.S. Gave Russians Advance ABM Notice

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The Soviet Union was informed before the public announcement that the United States had decided to build a \$5-billion anti-missile system.

Officials would not say just when the word was passed, but it may have been last Friday afternoon when Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin called on Secretary of State Dean Rusk after the envoy's return from Moscow. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara made the public announcement Monday.

The point of the tip-off was to make clear to the Soviets that the United States still very much hopes that Moscow will agree to talks which could produce an agreement to limit ABM deployments in both nations as well as to reduce the numbers of nuclear missiles in each country.

State Department Spokesman Robert J. McCloskey stressed that view yesterday by saying that "we still think it is highly desirable" for the two nations "to discuss ways to limit competition on strategic weapons, both offensive and defensive. We have not had much success until now. We intend to continue trying. We are hopeful that the new focus on the ABM problem will stimulate new interest in discussions on the part of the Soviet Union."

Soviet Split Seen

American officials feel that the Soviet leadership has long been divided on the issue and that a deadlock has prevented the Kremlin from even replying to the American request to set a date for talks which both nations, in principle, have agreed to hold.

The issue was first formally raised in Moscow in January by Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson. President Johnson pressed for setting a date when he talked with Soviet Premier Kosygin at the Glassboro summit in June. But Kosygin would not agree.

Rusk will have an opportu-

nity to raise the question again with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko when they meet at the United Nations. Rusk will go to New York on Sunday. Gromyko's stay is expected to be as short as a week or 10 days.

No Date Set

Rusk said yesterday that "no time or place" has yet been set for the talks. Other officials said Moscow has been totally silent since the Johnson-Kosygin meeting.

It was noted here that the bulk of the McNamara speech on Monday dealt with the So-

viet-American nuclear arms race, although the justification he gave for going ahead with the so-called "thin" ABM deployment was the Chinese missile threat.

As to China, McCloskey said yesterday that the U.S. believes the Chinese could have an operational ICBM as early as the early 1970s but could not deploy a significant number before the middle 1970s, when the ABM system will have been built.

As McNamara noted, the U.S. wants an agreement to limit ABM deployment, but, to get even the limited Soviet commitment in principle to talk on that subject, the Kremlin sought and obtained an American agreement to discuss offensive as well as defensive nuclear weapons. This agreement has led to fears by some that McNamara was prepared to accept nuclear parity with the Soviets, but he denied that, in effect, in his Monday speech in San Francisco.

Reaction Sets In

As expected, the ABM announcement, though it has been evident for some weeks that it was coming, produced considerable diplomatic fallout yesterday.

In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman warned

that the deployment "however limited will add a new dimension to the arms race" and could have serious repercussions on the projected treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

To counter that latter fear in London and elsewhere, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Deputy Director Adrian S. Fisher spoke out at the Geneva disarmament conference. He said:

"I need hardly repeat that the U.S. is firmly committed to achieving an equitable non-proliferation treaty and does not consider that this limited ABM deployment decision should in any way decrease the desirability" of such a treaty to other nations, many of which already have been balking at the Soviet-American draft now before them.

Assurance Given

Fisher added that the deployment "will foreclose any possibility of a successful Chinese nuclear attack on the U.S. and will thereby provide further assurance of our determination to support our Asian friends against Chinese nuclear blackmail." Several nations, India chief among them, have been calling for some firm guarantee against Chinese blackmail if they are to sign the treaty.

Initial reports from Geneva indicated that Asian delegates were reluctant to accept Fisher's argument.

In Ottawa, informed sources said that Canada was "informed" in advance of the ABM deployment decision but had not been consulted about it.

In Paris, NATO Secretary-General Manlio Brosio said the Atlantic Alliance has "under consideration" an ABM system. But he said NATO's examination of the problem, reported earlier this year, is "too recent for comment" now.