

Rusk Bids Russia Shift Its Concern Into Peace Efforts

Soviet Note Says U.S. Bullets Hit Russian Shipping

By Stuart Loory
From the European Edition of
the New York Herald Tribune

MOSCOW, Aug. 5—For the first time since the escalation of the Vietnam war began in 1965, the Soviet Union today charged that American bullets had struck Soviet ships and endangered the life of Soviet citizens.

The charge—that "large caliber bullets hit the Soviet diesel ship Medyn when American planes were attacking Haiphong harbor moorings at 6 a.m. last Tuesday—came in a note from the Foreign Ministry delivered to the American Embassy today.

The Embassy promptly rejected the note, returning it as it had come—via messenger, without official comment.

Later an American spokesman said it had been sent back because of its strong language. The note had called the American actions "provocative and criminal."

Another Incident

The vaguely worded note indicated that the Medyn was at anchor in Haiphong harbor when the planes allegedly attacked.

The note charged that in another incident a U.S. plane and helicopter "buzzed over the diesel ship Ingur" last Monday and that "four destroyers (presumably American) maneuvering around it demanded that the ship stop" (presumably as it was about to enter Haiphong harbor).

This, according to the note, was part of an American attempt to buzz Soviet ships at the approaches to the port of Haiphong, dive down on them and try to obstruct the ships' entry to the port and their

unloading.

Grave Responsibility

The note charged the United States with "grossly violating the principle of freedom of navigation." At another point it said "the United States Government takes upon itself a grave responsibility for the probable consequences of this course."

The note was similar to one
See SOVIET, A12, Col. 2

on July 9 in which the Russians charged American interference with Soviet merchant shipping to North Vietnam. The two documents differed, however, in important respects. The earlier note did not charge American bullets had hit Soviet ships but only that they had come close, and was not refused by the Embassy. The State Department rejected the earlier charge in a note that pointed out that great care was being taken in American raids to avoid hitting "civilian shipping." The note came as some Westerners in Moscow, includ-

ing high-level American diplomats, expressed fear that the Soviets might unwittingly talk themselves into a position on Vietnam that will involve Russia in the fighting to a greater extent than it has been.

The diplomatic analysts noted for example that Premier Kosygin escalated the Soviet's anti-American position slightly this week when he pledged aid to North Vietnam "to drive the Americans off Vietnamese soil as soon as possible." No Soviet leader had previously referred to any time limit for North Vietnamese and Vietcong victory—even one as vague as Kosygin's—in discussing Soviet aid to Vietnam.

Russian Attacks U.S., American Walks Out

From News Dispatches

MOSCOW, Aug. 5—At least one U.S. delegate walked out of the opening session of the 18th International Congress of Psychology when a Soviet official attacked U.S. policy in Vietnam, informed sources said today.

The attack came from Vyacheslav Yelutin, Minister of Higher and Specialized Education, but was not reported in the Soviet press. Only two weeks ago, U.S. microbiologists at another international conference walked out because of a similar attack by Health Minister Boris Petrovsky.

Rejects Red Claim U.S. Raids Peril Soviet Lives

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State Dean Rusk challenged the Communists yesterday to "do something" for peace if they are concerned that air attacks in Haiphong harbor or on the North-South Vietnamese border may expand the war.

Rusk was responding, in part, to the stiff Soviet note charging that American shots were aimed at Russian shipping, which he categorically denied. He also was commenting on continuing hostilities in what is supposed to be the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam.

The United States has "no policy desire to move into North Vietnam" or to send ground troops into the six-mile-wide buffer zone, said Rusk.

Gives Warning

But when asked if U.S. forces might possibly move into the southern portion of that Zone, Rusk deliberately warned:

"As far as the immediate local, close-in situation is concerned, a commander will have to do those things that are necessary for the security and preservation of his own units, his own forces."

That caution was intended to reinforce support expressed by Rusk at a news conference yesterday for an Indian proposal to strengthen the frustrated International Control Commission for Vietnam, to clear all forces out the violated buffer zone. The United States is bombing what it describes as North Vietnamese infiltrators up to division size in the zone.

Rusk similarly told the Soviet Union, in effect, yesterday, that if it is alarmed about risks to its shipping in North Viet-

See RUSK, A12, Col. 6

U.S. bombers strike near Cambodia, pound demilitarized zone for fourth time in six days. Page A12.

Candidates' records, not slogans, called key to South Vietnam election.

Page A12.

nam's Haiphong harbor, there is a diplomatic way out. He prodded the Soviet Union once again to employ its role as co-chairman of the Geneva conferences on Southeast Asia to initiate peace talks.

No Shots Hit Red Ships

"We have not been hitting shipping in the Haiphong harbor," replied Rusk. He said that the information he has on action in the harbor is "utterly convincing" that no shots hit Soviet ships.

Rusk left open the possibility that the shots the Russians were protesting about may have come from North Vietnamese anti-aircraft, aimed at attacking American planes that were hitting North Vietnamese oil dumps. He said Soviet shipping "was not in the area of the strikes and not in the target area and was not hit."

What was so unusual about the handling of the Soviet protest was the refusal of the United States to accept it officially. Rusk sought to minimize that, on grounds that it contained "abusive" language that "is not in accord with diplomatic practice."

The United States, however, has accepted many Russian notes with abusive language. Despite disclaimers of any new element in recent American-Soviet relations, the United States on July 23 sent Moscow an unusually strongly worded rejection of the first Soviet protest about risks to its shipping in Haiphong harbor.

Rusk acknowledged yesterday that the Vietnamese crisis "cannot help but affect bilateral (American-Soviet) relations."

"We would like to find ways to improve our . . . relations with the Soviet Union," said Rusk; "but we cannot do so by giving away South Vietnam."

Rusk reiterated throughout the news conference a readiness to engage in peace talks in any form. He said, "We have been prepared for negotiations, discussions, conferences, contacts, through any channels."