

Part 4/30/64

Kohler, Mikoyan Clash

By Murrey Marder
Staff Reporter

United States Ambassador to Moscow Foy D. Kohler and Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan disagreed last night over the right of the United States to fly reconnaissance flights over Cuba.

Their exchange took place during a half-hour chat at a diplomatic reception in Moscow and was generally friendly news agencies reported.

But the overflight dispute contains built-in tension that is bothering many officials here, in Moscow, and at the United Nations.

tr for add 1

"There was no meeting of

minds," Kohler told reporters after his talk with Mikoyan at a National Day reception at the Japanese Embassy.

Mikoyan raised the overflight issue with Kohler. At the height of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, Mikoyan was in Cuba trying to justify to Premier Fidel Castro the Soviet decision to comply with the United States demand to withdraw long-range Soviet missiles from Cuba.

The Soviet official last night repeated the Soviet contention published last week that American reconnaissance flights were "an open violation" of Cuban sovereignty, international law and the U.N. Charter.

Kohler repeated the U.S.

position that the flights were necessary "to protect its security" and as a substitute for ground inspection to guarantee that the missiles had been withdrawn.

Reporters said the conversation took place in the presence of several ambassadors and newsmen, and ended amicably with an exchange of toasts.

In Paris yesterday, U.N. Secretary General U Thant said that "for the moment, I cannot think of any procedures to solve the Cuban difference."

Cuba carried to the U.N. last week its protests about the reconnaissance flights and about "provocations" allegedly committed by Marines at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base on Cuba. Thant said he would study the matter after his return to New York today.

United States forces are maintaining close surveillance of Cuba and surrounding Caribbean waters. But Defense Department spokesmen denied yesterday that any naval "alert" had been ordered in the area.

The bulk of remaining organized Soviet troops in Cuba are expected to be withdrawn about May 1, leaving behind some Soviet military training personnel. A prime question for the United States is whether the Cubans will be free to fire Soviet surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles that knocked down one American U-2 during the 1962 crisis.

The Soviet newspaper Izvestia said last week that Soviet "weapons in the hands of the Cuban people . . . are the property of the Cuban people." It did not specify the kind of weapons, except to say that they included those for "the integrity of its airspace."

Izvestia said Cuba "has the right to use them with the

on U-2 Flights

object of defending its sovereignty and independence if that becomes necessary.

The prevailing view of American analysts is that Cuba is aiming for a legal battle in the U.N., and not a shooting fight against over-

whelming U.S. power. The U.S., however, recently reviewed its secret "contingency plans," which set a course for dealing with any attack on American planes carrying out photographic missions over Cuba.