

Compromise Seen As More Difficult

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UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko today publicly attacked "falsehoods" and "propaganda" being spread about Russians and Cubans amid reports that he has taken an unyielding diplomatic position on the issue of Soviet combat troops in Cuba.

Gromyko's tough remarks in his policy speech to the General Assembly suggested there is no chance for a compromise settlement of U.S. charges that a Soviet combat brigade was secretly established on the Caribbean island.

It was unclear, however, whether Gromyko's remarks represent a final Soviet position. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter, speaking for Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, said, "We are still in the midst of discussions with the Soviet Union on the Soviet brigade in Cuba" and that Vance and Gromyko are to take up the matter again Thursday afternoon.

Gromyko has been scheduled to leave New York for home at the end of this week and there was no word whether his stay will be extended. Failure to make progress toward resolution of the dispute or to establish a negotiating path that holds promise of working out a settlement would trigger U.S. "compensatory action" and place Senate ratification of the SALT II treaty in jeopardy.

Gromyko's General Assembly address today, like that of Vance in the same forum 24 hours before, included a brief section that addressed the Soviet brigade issue without explicitly saying so. Thus the Russian, like

Vance, took a strong position without openly addressing the issue under discussion in secret talks of the nuclear superpowers.

Without mentioning the combat brigade, Gromyko charged that "all sorts of falsehoods are being piled up concerning the policies of Cuba and the Soviet Union.

"But the truth is that this propaganda is totally without foundation. It has no real basis and is indeed based on falsehoods. The Soviet Union and Cuba have already so declared."

Without saying to whom it was addressed, the top Soviet diplomat added: "Our advice on this score is simple: it is high time you honestly admit this whole matter is artificial and is proclaimed to be closed."

In Washington, reaction to the Gromyko speech was harsh. Sen Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, recommended that his committee delay sending the SALT treaty to the Senate floor until something is done about the troops in Cuba.

Senate Republican leader Howard H. Baker of Tennessee said he was "astonished" by Gromyko's speech. "There is simply no basis for doubting that the Russians have a fully equipped, fully manned combat brigade in Cuba," he said.

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