

Kissinger Helping Soviet Snoopers



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FOR THE SAKE of detente, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is helping the Russians establish their embassy on high ground, which will give them a better vantage point for electronic espionage.

At the same time, the Soviets have offered the U.S. an embassy site in a low area along the Moscow River near the present U.S. Chancery. "It's just a little farther down the slope," said a source.

The two nations agreed to exchange new chanceries over six years ago, but they have been bickering ever since over sites and plans.

The Russians, with American concurrence, have settled on a 12.5-acre wooded site on Mount Alto, one of the highest points in Washington. They plan to erect a five-building complex, which would resemble a walled fortress.

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FROM THIS prominent perch, according to our sources, the Soviets will get better results with their sophisticated electronic monitoring equipment. This is used to eavesdrop on long-distance telephone calls which, for the most part, are transmitted by microwave.

Kissinger has strongly urged approval of the new Soviet embassy, although he has full knowledge that it will give the USSR a superior listening post than the Russians are permitting the United States to build in Moscow.

Reportedly under State Department prodding, the General Services Administration has filed an environmental impact statement calling for ratification "in the spirit of detente." Failure to approve the proposal, says the GSA, could "create an international situation."

Not only have the Soviets provided the U.S. Embassy with a low-level location, but they have objected to every construction plan the United States has submitted.

Representative Wayne Hays (Dem.-Ohio), who oversees the State Department budget, has held up approval of the new Soviet Embassy until the United States is permitted to go ahead with its construction.

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AS A RESULT, Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin recently called at the State Department and notified Assistant Secretary Arthur Hartman that the Kremlin had dropped all objections to the U.S. construction plans.

Footnote: A State Department spokesman said the Soviets had not raised "objections" but had merely offered "recommendations." Another spokesman in Hartman's office said our account of the conversation with Dobrynin was "inaccurate and incomplete." But he refused to explain the alleged inaccuracies, claiming it "was a private conversation and we don't want to go into it." Our sources, in fact, are wholly familiar with the incident and we have confidence they gave us an accurate report.