

U.S. Is Preparing Pressure on Soviet To Free Generals

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 4—

The United States is preparing to apply increased pressure, including a protest at the strategic-arms limitation talks if necessary, to win the release of an Army plane and four officers still being detained two weeks after it landed in Soviet Armenia.

The preparations were disclosed today by reliable government sources who also said that the two United States Army generals aboard the plane had been submitted to "lengthy and intensive" questioning.

The sources said Soviet military intelligence had interrogated them about the scope of United States military activities in Turkey and about the border-crossing incident.

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The ranking officer of the plane was Maj. Gen. Edward C. D. Scherrer, commander of the United States Joint Military Mission in Turkey. With him are Brig. Gen. Claude M. McQuarrie Jr., his aide for ground forces; Maj. James Russell Jr., the pilot, and Col. Cevdat Deneli, a Turkish Army liaison officer.

Their plane strayed across the Turkish border on Oct. 21 and landed near Leninakan in Soviet Armenia. The United States has apologized for the incident, which it has described as "inadvertent and without hostile intent," and called for the immediate release of the plane and the four officers.

In response, the Soviet Government has protested the incursion, which it has characterized as hostile, and warned that it could impede relations between the two countries. The protest was repeated today by the Soviet Defense Ministry, which demanded that the United States stop its "piratical flights" over Soviet territory.

An editorial in the ministry's newspaper, Krasnaya Zvezda, accused the United States of conducting "extensive military and intelligence activities near the borders of our country."

The State Department press officer, John F. King, expressed the Government's rising impatience and displeasure at the continued detention of the plane and the four officers.

"We completely fail to un-

derstand the long Soviet delay in completing an investigation of a matter which clearly involves an accidental intrusion into Soviet territory," he said.

Mr. King added that the United States was "considering further action in light of the current circumstances."

Soviet to Be Pressed

Responsible officials said later that this action would probably take the form of pressure at the United States-Soviet talks on limitation of strategic arms in Helsinki. They noted that the Russians appeared to be as interested as the United States, in achieving some progress and therefore would be responsive to anything that threatened the negotiations.

"We plan to keep pressing them harder and harder on this one," one official said. "If necessary, we will rise it at the SALT TALKS and make it clear that it poses an obstacle to any significant progress."

The officials said such a step would probably be taken by the end of next week if the officers had not been released by that time.

The officers are being housed in a comfortable government villa in Leninakan, officials said, and two Soviet generals have been brought in to serve as their hosts. They are under minimum security and at least once have been permitted to tour the city in an automobile.

The officials said the officers had been interrogated "at great length" by military intelligence, but apparently had not been mistreated.