

2 Generals Will Be Freed, U.S. Is Informed by Soviet

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By **TERENCE SMITH**
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—The Soviet Union advised the United States today that it would release the two United States Army generals it has been holding since their small

plane crossed the Turkish border into Soviet Armenia on Oct. 21.

Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin called Secretary of State William P. Rogers this afternoon and told him that Maj. Gen. Edward C. D. Scherrer, chief of the United States military mission in Turkey, and his assistant, Brig. Gen. Claude M. McQuarrie Jr., "will be released and permitted to leave the Soviet Union."

The State Department spokesman, Robert J. McCloskey, said the United States hoped the two officers would be released within 24 hours. Other sources indicated that the pilot of the plane, Maj. James P. Russell, who was also detained, probably would fly the small Air Force plane back to Turkey in the next day or two.

Constructive Step Seen

In Key Biscayne, Fla., where President Nixon is vacationing, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Zeigler, said the President considered the generals' release a "constructive step in United States-Soviet relations."

The Turkish radio announced earlier today that the fourth passenger in the plane, a Turkish colonel who served as liaison officer, had been handed over to Turkish authorities at Kizilcakcak, just across the border from the Soviet Armenian town of Leninakan, where the plane and the four officers had been held.

The United States has said that the plane strayed across the border while the generals

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were on an inspection tour of Turkish military facilities. The Soviet Union charged that they had crossed the border with hostile intent.

Colonel Russell was quoted by American consular officials as having said that he was en route from Erzurum to Kars and had landed at Leninakan in the belief that it was Kars. The detained officers were visited twice by consuls attached to the United States embassy in Moscow.

The Soviet decision to free the men followed nearly three weeks of acrimonious argument between the two countries over the nature of the border-crossing incident, straining the at-

mosphere between Moscow and Washington.

In exasperation at the Soviet delay in releasing the officers, the United States instructed its top-level diplomats to boycott Soviet celebrations marking 53d anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

United States officials said this evening that they assumed the Russians had decided they had exploited the incident "for all the propaganda it was worth" and therefore agreed to release the officers.

Throughout the nearly three weeks of their captivity, the Americans were kept in a comfortable Government villa in Leninakan and occasionally permitted to tour the town under guard. On several occasions,

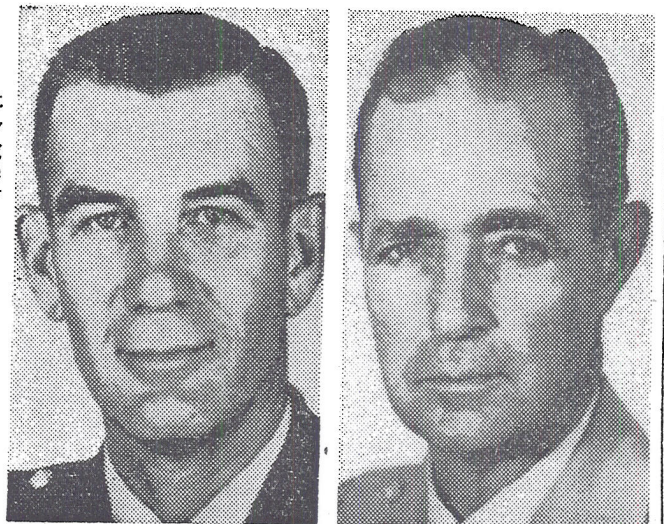
they were submitted to what officials described as "lengthy and intensive" questioning about the incident and the scope of United States military activities in Turkey.

Arrangements Detailed

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Tuesday, Nov. 10 — A United States Embassy spokesman said early this morning that the Soviet authorities had asked Turkey to send five persons in to the Soviet Union as part of the arrangements for the release of the American generals.

According to the embassy spokesman, the five persons were to be a general, an interpreter, a pilot, a navigator and a mechanic.



Associated Press

TO BE FREED BY THE SOVIET UNION: Brig. Gen. Claude M. McQuarrie Jr., left, and Maj. Gen. Edward C. D. Scherrer, whose plane landed in Armenia, apparently by accident.