

Soviet Weekly Accuses the C.I.A. of Plot

MOSCOW, Aug. 3 (AP)—A Soviet publication accused the United States Central Intelligence Agency today of having tried to recruit a Soviet diplomat in New York and then of threatening his life when he declined to cooperate.

The weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta said the Soviet Government had protested this "brazen provocation" to the United States Embassy here. The embassy referred all queries to the State Department.

Literaturnaya Gazeta identified the diplomat as Oleg V. Kharchenko, a personal assistant to the chief Soviet delegate to the United Nations, Yakov A. Malik. [Officials of the Soviet United Nations mission in New York said Mr. Kharchenko, a first secretary, was now in Moscow. They said they would not comment on the accusation until they had read the article.]

The article said he had been approached by two C.I.A. agents who offered to give him political information that would help his career in return for information on the Soviet Union's intentions in pursuing détente with the West.

When Mr. Kharchenko refused, it said, "the specialists in détente started making threats."

The publication said one agent, whom it called Mr. Bryant, had told Mr. Kharchenko the only way out of the hotel room in which they were meeting was through the window. But the C.I.A. men later backed down and told the diplomat they would give him three days to think it over, the article added.

Mr. Kharchenko immediately told his superiors what had happened, the article continued,

and he was recalled to Moscow. The article said the American press had not reported the incident because such a report would contradict the "cold war myth" about "Red spies" in the United States.

"It will be interesting to see what the gentlemen from Time, the New York Post and other United States newspapers and magazines will now write about this story," Literaturnaya Gazeta, the official journal of the Soviet Union of Writers, said. The publication has assumed the role as Moscow's main critic of Western intelligence activities and the Western press.

U.S. Confirms Protest

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3—The State Department confirmed today that the Soviet Foreign Ministry protested last week against what it called a "provocation" against Oleg V. Kharchenko, a diplomat assigned to its United Nations mission in New York.

In a comment on the charges leveled in the Literaturnaya

Gazeta article, the department neither confirmed nor denied the allegations that Central Intelligence Agency officials had tried to recruit Mr. Kharchenko and had threatened his life.

Rather, the carefully worded statement said that the actual protest note, delivered last Thursday in Moscow to the American Embassy, "does not allege a threat against Mr. Kharchenko's life as is done by Literaturnaya Gazeta."

On the actual protest itself, the department said: "it is our policy not to comment on such allegations."

It added that in the protest note, the Foreign Ministry had protested "an alleged 'provocation' by 'American intelligence services.'"

A spokesman for the C.I.A., when asked about the article, said, "We're not going to comment on that."

Other officials noted that surveillance of Soviet diplomats in this country was usually the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. But F.B.I. officials referred queries to the State Department.