

Soviets, in Sharp Attack, Link Dissidents to CIA 'Spy Ring'

Moscow

The Soviet newspaper Izvestia said yesterday that Russian dissidents worked with a major U.S. Central Intelligence Agency spy ring in Moscow to collect military and scientific secrets.

Izvestia, in a lengthy article, printed photographs of alleged secret CIA messages and a drawing purportedly showing how a secret package was to be delivered to American agents.

The article also charged that

Western correspondents had collaborated with dissidents to distort events in Moscow. It named reporters for the Associated Press and Newsweek magazine, neither of whom now work in the Soviet Union.

The article, the sharpest attack yet on the Soviet dissident movement, attempted to prove that leading critics are in the pay of Western intelligence agencies and are dedicated to destroying the Soviet state.

Most of the article's fire was

directed at Melvyn Levitsky, a first secretary in the U.S. Embassy who has since been transferred to Washington, and Joseph A. Presel, now a member of the embassy's political section. Also named was Alynn J. Nathanson, who left the embassy last year.

Associated Press correspondent George A. Krinsky, who was expelled from the Soviet Union last month, and Alfred Friendly Jr., a former Moscow correspondent for Newsweek magazine, were referred to in general terms, as having supported dissidents and as having possible links with U.S. intelligence. Both have denied the previously published charges, as have the Associated Press and Newsweek.

Izvestia printed a diagram purporting to show where dissidents left secret messages for the CIA on the outskirts of Moscow, a photograph showing how CIA money and instructions for dissidents were concealed in a bag and a photocopy of alleged CIA instructions.

The U.S. Embassy said only that it was studying the report.

Much of the Izvestia article relied on a long "open letter" from S. L. Lipavsky, a former Moscow surgeon who until last month was active in the dissident movement.

Associated Press