

# Who Was Assassin's Target?

MOSCOW (AP) — A youth described by the Foreign Ministry as mentally deranged fired several pistol shots yesterday at a motorcade honoring the four newest space heroes and carrying two Soviet leaders.

A chauffeur and an escort riding a motorcycle were wounded.

Cosmonaut Georg Beregovoy, whose flight in Soyuz 3 last October blazed the way for the successful space link-up by the four last week, was cut on the neck by flying glass as a bullet struck the driver of his limousine.

There was speculation that the youth was aiming at Communist party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev and President Nikolai V. Podgorny, riding in a closed car behind. But the Foreign Ministry today in announcing the incident nearly 24 hours after it happened refused to confirm this.

The leaders were several cars behind Beregovoy's limousine.

The youth was grabbed by spectators and immediately arrested by the police. The Foreign Ministry refused to identify him or give a possible motive.

It seemed clear, however, that the youth was not aiming at the cosmonauts who rode Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 into orbit and achieved the world's first manned linkup and transfer of men from one spaceship to the other.

The four, Vladimir Shatalov, Boris Volynov, Alexei

Continued from Page 1

Yeliseyev and Yevgeny Khru-  
nov, were standing in the  
back of an open car. The  
closed limousine carrying  
Beregovoy was the second car  
behind that of the four, who  
would have been easy targets.

The reluctance of the For-  
eign Ministry and other offi-  
cial channels to elaborate on  
the case gave rise to specula-  
tion that there was more to  
the incident than was immedi-  
ately made public.

Firearms are strictly con-  
trolled in the Soviet Union and  
assassination attempts on  
public figures here have not  
been heard of for years.

The last known violence in  
the Kremlin area occurred in  
June, 1967, when a man car-  
rying a homemade bomb was  
blown up near Lenin's Tomb.  
He was officially reported to  
have been a criminal.

The shooting incident was  
kept secret for nearly 24 hours  
despite the presence of more  
than 1,000 spectators at this  
climactic point in the parade  
near the Kremlin's Borovitsky  
Gate.

The news came to light  
when an unofficial Soviet  
source with close government  
contacts told some Western  
reporters about it today.

A Foreign Ministry spokes-  
man, confronted with the un-  
official version, said, "The  
facts as you have them took  
place." He described the gun-  
man as a "schizophrenic."

The Foreign Ministry  
spokesman refused to discuss  
the case further. A brief re-  
port by the official news agen-  
cy Tass later said only that  
shots were fired at the car in  
which Beregovoy and other  
cosmonauts from earlier  
flights were riding.

It was possible that officials  
suppressed news of the shoot-  
ing until the day after the pa-  
rade, to avoid ruining the  
triumphant ceremonies.

The four cosmonauts re-  
mained unruffled by the inci-  
dent. They went through the  
ceremonies in the Kremlin  
Palace of Congresses main  
stage and showed no sign of  
injury.

It was recalled that during  
the televised Kremlin cerem-  
onies, a messenger handed  
notes to Brezhnev and Yuri  
Andropov, chairman of the  
KGB, the state security com-  
mittee.

As Podgorny was pinning  
medals on the four cosmo-  
nauts, Andropov handed a  
note to Brezhnev, who read it  
with a serious expression.

Continued Page 4, Col. 7