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(500) AMS BUDGET

U.S.-SOVIET

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JAN. 23 (AP)-FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TOLD A SENATE COMMITTEE TODAY THAT SOVIET SPIES OPERATE ACTIVELY FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. BUT HE SAID RUSSIAN CONSULATES IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM HIS MEN ARE INCAPABLE OF HANDLING.

SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK AGREED THE FBI "CAN COPE WITH A FEW MORE" COMMUNIST DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS EVEN IF ESPIONAGE AGENTS ARE ASSIGNED TO A CONSULATE THAT MIGHT BE OPENED IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID NO MORE THAN 15 TO 15 PERSONS WOULD BE INVOLVED.

MORE TO THE POINT, RUSK TOLD THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, A LONG-PENDING CONSULAR TREATY SHOULD BE APPROVED BECAUSE IT WOULD PROVIDE NEW PROTECTION FOR AMERICANS NOW TRAVELING IN THE SOVIET UNION AT THE RATE OF 18,000 A YEAR.

SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID, ADDED U.S. CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN RUSSIA WOULD "PERMIT THE UNITED STATES PROMPTLY TO PROTECT AND ASSIST ITS CITIZENS WHEN THEY ARE ARRESTED AND DETAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION."

"I DO NOT SEE HOW THIS CONSULAR CONVENTION CAN ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RISK OF ESPIONAGE," RUSK TESTIFIED.

AND SEN. CLAIBORNE PELL, D-R.I., SAID ESPIONAGE IS A TWO-WAY STREET AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S WORK MIGHT BE MADE EASIER BY ADDED CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN RUSSIA.

IN THE SPYING BUSINESS "WHAT'S FOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS FOOD FOR THE GANDER," PELL SAID.

HOOVER DECLINED TO TESTIFY IN PERSON AT THE COMMITTEE'S HEARING ON THE CONVENTION APPROVED IN 1964 AND FIRST SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE IN 1965. BUT HE MADE HIS VIEWS AVAILABLE IN A LETTER SEN. KARL E. MUNDT, R-S.D., GAVE TO THE COMMITTEE AND USED AS A BASIS FOR OPPOSING THE PACT.

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HOOVER INSISTED HE IS NOT TRYING TO BLOCK SENATE APPROVAL OF THE TREATY THAT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF CONSULATES BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

HE SAID HE IS TAKING NO POSITION ON WHETHER THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE TREATY BUT HIS WORDS WERE SEIZED AS AMMUNITION BY FOES OF THE LONG-SHELVED AGREEMENT.

IN HIS LETTER TO MUNDT, HOOVER SAID HE NEVER HAS IMPLIED THAT THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT "WOULD IMPOSE ANY ADDITIONAL BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY UPON THE FBI THAT WE ARE INCAPABLE OF HANDLING." BUT HOOVER DID SAY IT WOULD MAKE HIS AGENCY'S SECURITY WORK HARDER."

HOOVER WROTE MUNDT:

"THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THE WORK OF THE FBI IN COMBATTING SOVIET-DIRECTED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY HAS INCREASED THROUGH THE YEARS COMMENSURATE WITH THE INCREASE IN SOVIET REPRESENTATION HERE.

"I CAN ALSO STATE. . . THAT COMMUNIST-BLOC DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES."

HOOVER ALSO SAID SOVIET SPIES "ARE CONDUCTING AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AIMED AT THE MOST SENSITIVE DATA REGARDING OUR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS, OUR MILITARY AND DEFENSE PROGRAMS AND THE FUTURE PLANS OF OUR GOVERNMENT."

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PERSONNEL OF THE PROPOSED CONSULATES WOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FROM ARREST. BUT RUSK SAID BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY PERSON, OR RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, ASSIGNED TO CONSULATES WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES.

HE SAID PRESIDENT JOHNSON ALREADY HAS POWER UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN CONSULATES. BUT HE SAID THE PROPOSED CONVENTION WOULD PROVIDE NEW GUARANTEES TO SAFEGUARD AMERICANS TRAVELING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

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