

Consular Treaty Scored as Spur to Espionage

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (AP)—The proposed consular treaty with the Soviet Union was denounced today as an opportunity for “a mushrooming of Communist espionage throughout the Western Hemisphere.”

Lev E. Dobriansky of Georgetown University, an economist told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that other nations in the hemisphere probably would approve similar treaties if the United States did. “Senate confirmation of this treaty would open up a Pandora’s box of Soviet Russian pressure against every free government in Latin America,” he said.

Notification of Arrest

The treaty, which was signed in 1964, would establish rules for operating consulates in the two countries. A two-thirds majority of those voting is required for Senate confirmation.

Unlike other consular treaties, the pact would give consular officials diplomatic immunity from felony prosecution,

a privilege now afforded at the embassy level.

It would provide for quick notification of the arrest of an American in the Soviet Union and access to him.

Opponents say the disadvantages—mainly espionage—outweigh the advantages.

Supporters say the United States stands to gain much more than the Russians from the provision for notification of arrests and access to prisoners. The arrest immunity also would be more valuable to Americans than to Russians, proponents argue.

Senator Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee who opposes the treaty, asked today:

“Why are we so interested in strengthening the Communists who are killing our boys (in Vietnam)?”

“Certainly,” he said, “you’re not going to shorten the war by increasing trade with Russia.”

Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, the com-

mittee chairman, said that when differences existed between countries, the question was how to resolve them. He suggested the United States should not “escalate [the cold war] like the hot war.”

Letter From Admiral

Senator Mundt inserted into the record a letter from Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, retired, who said the Soviets “are notorious for failing to abide by the many treaties they have signed.”

Admiral Burke said:

“Our goal of peace for the world is most admirable, but our ceaseless attempt to obtain the goodwill of the U. S. S. R. by yielding unmatched concessions has not measurably advanced our goal.”

In prepared remarks, W. B. Hicks Jr., executive secretary of the Liberty Lobby, a conservative group, asked the Senators how they could answer the parents or wife of an American killed in Vietnam “by the acts of the criminal Government to whom this treaty seeks to build a ‘bridge.’”