

Ford Urged Soviets On Radiation Curb

Associated Press

President Ford sent a personal appeal to Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev urging that the Soviets curtail their microwave bombardment of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, according to Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.).

Dole said he was told of the President's letter to Brezhnev during a closed-door briefing on the Moscow radiation problem by Helmut Sonnenfeldt, one of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's closest associates.

Following the Ford letter and U.S. diplomatic efforts to protest over the radiation, as well as an embassy staff meeting that led to widespread publicity, the Soviets reduced the microwave levels. However, they have refused to cease the bombardment completely.

[A State Department announcement earlier this month said the Soviet radiation signal at the U.S. embassy has been reduced to 2 microwatts or less per

square centimeter. News reports that have not been officially confirmed said the radiation had soared to 18 microwatts per square centimeter last year, well above the Soviets' own maximum permissible safety standard of 10 microwatts per square centimeter.]

A White House spokesman, John Carlson, said there have been U.S.-Soviet contacts on the radiation issue at various levels and "there has been communication—correspondence—between the President and Brezhnev." He declined to give any further details.

The radiation problem has caused concern among current and former American personnel at the Moscow embassy that long-term exposure to the low-level microwaves might result in adverse health or behavioral effects.

Dole, who had criticized U.S. handling of the matter, said in an interview that Sonnenfeldt apparently mentioned the Ford letter, dispatched about seven months ago, to impress upon the senator that "we weren't taking this lightly."

Dole said he was not told the specific wording of the letter to the Kremlin or what, if any, response there was from Brezhnev.

An aide to Dole who was present during the senator's closed-door briefing with Sonnenfeldt said the Ford letter to Brezhnev evidently had been sent in December, 1975, or January of this year.

The aide, Claude Alexander, said Sonnenfeldt explained that Mr. Ford "had



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ABOUT 94—Mr. Ford nears end of 18 Club where, he said, he shot "about 94." holes of golf at Congressional Country With him is Caddy Dan Bradley.

Kidnap Victim, 64, Released in Italy

GIOSA JONICA, Italy, July 25 (AP)—A 64-year-old landowner kidnaped 27 days ago near here in southern Italy was released today police reported. Officers said relatives immediately took Domenico Simonetta, 64, to a hospital for treatment of a heart ailment.

There have been 26 kidnappings for ransom so far this year in Italy.

written a personal letter to Brezhnev to make a personal appeal that these [U.S. embassy personnel being irradiated in Moscow] are our employees—in effect, "What the hell are you trying to do?"

According to a classified State Department document

made available to the Associated Press, U.S. concern over the Soviet microwaves — first detected in the early 1960s — increased in October, 1975, when the radiation began focusing on the embassy from two different directions.

From October through

January, the document said, the United States was "making representations" to the Soviet government while preparing to install protective screens on the building's windows. Embassy employees were finally briefed about the radiation in early February.

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