

THE LONDON TIMES
27 APRIL 1976

PAB - 52

Fresh 'radiation danger' to US staff in Moscow

From Peter Strafford
New York, April 26

There were new accusations today that members of the American Embassy in Moscow were being damaged by the Russian practice of beaming microwaves at it. The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) reported that Mr Walter Stoessel, the American Ambassador, was suffering from the effects of radiation.

Mr John Hemenway, the president of the American Foreign Service Association, said that past ambassadors had also had their health damaged by the microwaves.

He asserted that the Russians had been beaming microwaves at the embassy since the early 1960s in a deliberate attempt to create health hazards, irritability and fatigue. He called for the expulsion of the Soviet Ambassador in Washington.

At the State Department, officials refused to comment directly on the reports. But they quoted a spokesman from the Moscow embassy as saying that Mr Stoessel was feeling perfectly well, was leading an active life and was not receiving medical treatment.

Reports of Russian microwave transmissions have been pre-occupying the Americans since February, when it became known that officials in the Moscow embassy had been warned of a possible hazard to their health. The matter was taken up with the Russians, and some sort of accommodation was reportedly reached.

At first the impression was that the microwaves were intended to activate or charge bugging devices installed in the embassy. But it was later reported that their aim was to disable monitoring equipment installed on the embassy roof and used among other things, to eavesdrop on Soviet officials travelling in cars.

In their column in the *Washington Post* today, Mr Rowland Evans and Mr Robert Novak said that an agreement had been reached between the Russians and the Americans for the dismantling of the rooftop equipment in exchange for a reduction in the beaming of microwaves. But within the past month full-scale bombardment had been resumed by the Russians, at a level that was dangerous to health.