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## Radiation at U.S. Embassy Long Known, Ex-Agents Say

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The United States has known for years that the Soviet Union was bombarding the U.S. Embassy in Moscow with high and possibly harmful levels of microwave radiation, but the government withheld the information from Embassy employees.

According to two ex-CIA agents, Regenstein and Victor Marchetti, the radiation was well-known within the agency and a matter of concern during the 1960s.

Regenstein, who was with the CIA from 1966 to 1971 and now is an environmental writer here, said yesterday the situation was "common gossip within the CIA by 1970 but that it is sure would have required a decision at a higher level.

He charged that the information was withheld as part of a general and continuing cover-up of Soviet activities that could endanger "detente" if they became public knowledge. He termed the long period of silence "a major scandal."

MARCHETTI, a frequent critic of the CIA and author of "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," said high levels of radiation "were well known at least by the early 1960s. This is an old turkey."

Embassy employees were not told of the possibly dangerous radiation until two weeks ago. An Embassy doctor reportedly assured the staff later that no health hazard existed.

Nobody but the Soviets seems to have any firm idea why the radiation is being beamed at U.S. facility, and

and they now claim that U.S. electronic equipment may be a contributing factor. Other theories range from operation of a Soviet bugging system to efforts at destroying the effectiveness of Embassy personnel by making them tired and irritable.

Marchetti has another theory. His guess is that there really is no practical use for the radiation, and that it is designed to confuse U.S. officials and make them waste time and money trying to figure out what is happening.

IF THIS IS the case, he said, it appears to have worked. "We were very concerned since this was something we didn't know about. We worried and worried."

As Marchetti sees it, the long-known radiation was disclosed at this point to divert public attention from bad publicity the CIA and other intelligence agencies have received lately.

"There will be a few more exciting revelations until the issue is forgotten," he predicted. "It's designed to help (President) Ford shove through his national security law and preserve the 'imperial presidency,'" he said.

Embassy personnel in

Moscow were told two weeks ago that there had been some low levels of microwave radiation directed at the Embassy previously, but that the high levels were something new. Both ex-CIA agents insisted, however, that the levels had been high enough all along to cause serious concern.

REGENSTEIN has been a frequent CIA defender since leaving the agency and said he has been careful not to divulge any classified information. He agreed to discuss the Moscow situation only because existence of the radiation now was known.

When told of the situation earlier this month, Embassy employees reportedly were told their health might have been endangered and were given the opportunity to request a transfer. The Boston Globe reported, also, that Ambassador Walter Stoessel might have a leukemia-like blood ailment possibly caused by the radiation, but this was strongly denied by the State Department.

Microwaves are used by radar to detect distant airplanes and in ovens to cook food. Cataracts and other eye damage have been discovered among microwave oven repairmen while sterility and blood damage have been produced in experimental animals. There is also evidence that heavy dosage can produce a genetic effect on chromosomes.