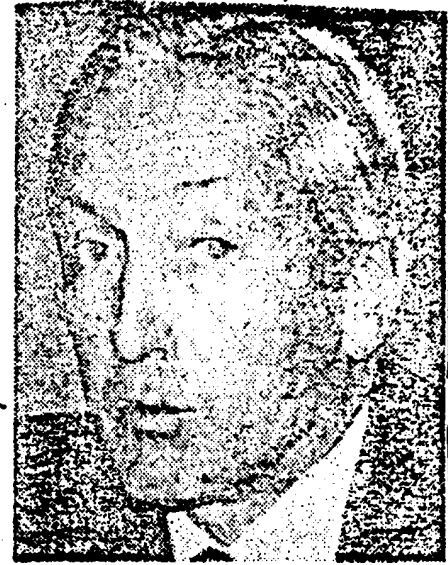


Moscow Microwave Mystery

Report of Envoy's Illness Is Termed 'Misleading'



WALTER STOESEL
Envoy feels fine

MOSCOW (AP) — The American Embassy has termed "inaccurate and misleading" a published report that U.S. Ambassador Walter Stoessel has a mysterious blood ailment possibly caused or aggravated by high levels of Soviet microwaves beamed at the embassy.

It said Stoessel has gone cross-country skiing and played paddle tennis in recent days.

The Boston Globe yesterday quoted sources as saying Stoessel's alleged ailment resembles leukemia and was a major factor leading to an American protest to the Kremlin over microwave transmissions.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Moscow, asked to comment on the Globe story, said: "We have seen various stories about the ambassador's health, all of which are inaccurate and misleading. It would not be appropriate to comment specifically

on the ambassador's health or on that of any other individual.

"However, the ambassador feels fine, keeps a busy schedule, leads an active life, has not undergone medical treatment and is not at the present time undergoing medical treatment."

Earlier news accounts from Moscow said Western residents assume the Soviets are directing a microwave bugging device toward a section of the embassy's three top floors where classified work is conducted and where Stoessel's office is located.

A State Department medical technician is in Moscow, apparently to check blood samples of embassy staffers to determine if the radiation level has created hazards.

But no one in authority would say whether any illness related to the radiation had been discovered. "No

comment" responses were given newsmen who posed such questions.

Officials would only refer to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's statement Thursday that the beaming is a "matter of great complexity and sensitivity" and that "unilateral efforts to reduce the danger" have been made.