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Tass Says U.S. Spies at U.N.

Charge Is Reaction To Soviet Staff Cut

Reuter

MOSCOW, March 8—The Soviet news agency Tass, reacting angrily to the U.S. demand for staff cuts at the Soviet missions to the United Nations in New York, accused the Americans today of using the world body for spying.

"The United States intensively exploits the fact that the United Nations headquarters is located in New York for espionage purposes," Tass said.

Tass said earlier that Washington, seeking to force changes in U.N. policy to suit its interests, had used "raw pressure and blackmail" and taken "one hostile action after another" against Communist and developing countries.

The State Department announced yesterday that the staff of 275 diplomats at the Soviet mission must be reduced to 170 in four stages by 1988 and that the missions of the two Soviet republics with separate U.N. membership, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, would be limited to 10 diplomats each.