

The Washington Post



ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP Associated Press

A 20

... RI

Thursday, June 15, 1978 THE WASHINGTON POST

Gromyko Said to Warn U.S. on Russians' Arrest

Associated Press

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko told Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance late last month that his government was incensed by the highly publicized arrest of two Russian nationals on spy charges and might retaliate against Americans, a U.S. official disclosed last night.

"Two can play at this game," Gromyko was reported to have warned Vance in New York during discussions which dealt primarily with efforts to conclude a treaty limiting strategic nuclear weapons, said one official who asked not to be identified.

The Russian nationals who were employed at the United Nations Secretariat were arrested in New Jersey on May 20 and charged with espionage.

The Soviets—Valdik Aleksand-

rovich Enger and Rudolf Petrovich Chernyayev—pleaded innocent to the charges and were ordered held in lieu of \$2 million bail each.

Gromyko was reported to be especially upset by the unusually high bail set for the two Russians. He pointedly advised Vance that the Soviet Union was capable of retaliating against Americans in Moscow, said one official.

The apparent Soviet retaliation surfaced Monday when Izvestia, the Soviet government newspaper, claimed that Martha D. Peterson, a CIA agent posing as a U.S. embassy official, was expelled last July after she allegedly was caught planting espionage devices.

On Monday night, U.S. businessman Francis J. Crawford, the Moscow representative for International Harvester, was arrested on smuggling charges.

"It's clear the Soviets telegraphed their punch," a U.S. official said, referring to Gromyko's warning and the following arrest.