

7 July 1950

Editor,
The Washington Post,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Since the State Department has seen fit to refrain from dignifying even by a reply the recent protest of the U.S.S.R. relative to our use of aircraft to spread potato bugs over the fields under U.S.S.R. control, I submit the following proposed draft of a suitable reply, for your consideration and possible publication.

"The Government of the United States notes with chagrin that the excellent intelligence service of the Government of the U.S.S.R. has succeeded in discovering indubitable evidence of the nefarious action by the United States Government in causing the dissemination by U.S. aircraft of insects charged with mission of destroying the potato crops which otherwise might have been harvested from farmlands under U.S.S.R. control. The Government of the United States regretfully admits that the said insects are those produced in quantity by its puppet Government of Japan and are known as Japanese beetles, not potato bugs. The Government of the United States reluctantly must indicate that its censorious course of action was undertaken only as a more humanitarian measure in retaliation for the military terroristic course pursued recently by the U.S.S.R., in causing guided missiles of U.S.S.R. origin to disseminate, locally termed 'gnyets' (sometimes pronounced 'gnyats', or 'gnyts') over the grounds occupied by the Army-Navy Country Club, in Arlington County, adjacent to Washington, one of the results of which has been the engendering of severe psychoneuroses among highest level officers of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force whose earnest efforts to approach par are being nullified by the deplorable condition of the putting greens, caused by the depredations of said gnyets.

"With assurances, etc."

Very truly yours

Watta Laff

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