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USSR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
Sept. 13, 1954

U.N. DISCUSSES VLADIVOSTOK INCIDENT

Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Sept. 11, 1954, 0500 GMT--L

(Text)

New York--A meeting of the Security Council, called on the request of the U.S. representative Lodge, was held yesterday. In his letter of Sept. 8, Lodge requested the Council to examine the accusation put forward by the United States that two aircraft with Soviet markings had allegedly attacked an aircraft of the American Navy over the open sea.

The Soviet representative, Vyshinsky, stated that the USSR objects to the inclusion of this issue in the agenda of the Security Council, as Lodge had deliberately distorted the entire incident in his letter for the purpose of provocation. Recalling the facts connected with this incident, Vyshinsky pointed out that, as the American aircraft proved to be an intruder over Soviet territory, two Soviet aircraft took off for the purpose of warning the American aircraft of this violation. Then the U.S. aircraft opened fire on the Soviet aircraft, and it was only at this stage that the latter opened return fire.

Vyshinsky pointed out that the United States in its note to the USSR of Sept. 6, contended that the U.S. aircraft did not fire at the Soviet airplanes; however, THE NEW YORK TIMES of Sept. 7 cited the statement of members of the crew of the U.S. aircraft in which they admitted that they had fired at the Soviet airplane.

Vyshinsky pointed out that the United States in its note to the USSR of Sept. 6 had declared that the incident had taken place 100 miles east of Vladivostok and at a distance of 44 miles from the shore of Siberia. A look at the map shows, however, said Vyshinsky, that it happened not over the open sea but over Soviet territory. This incident just as the previous incidents with American aircraft, constituted a gross violation of the rules of international law by the United States.

It is clear therefore, said Vyshinsky, that the U.S. State Department had distorted the facts for the purpose of shifting the blame from the guilty to the innocent. The inclusion of this issue in the agenda would only contribute to the aggravation of the tension in the Far East. However, the complaint of the United States was included on the agenda of the Security Council.

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4--Concerning the rearmament of Japan

The Japanese people do not want their living standard to be lowered due to rearmament or to increased armed forces. At the same time, however, they consider it permissible for an independent and sovereign state to have its independent armed forces in accordance with the minimum requirements of self-defense and with its economic possibilities. What is your opinion with regard to armed forces for Japan's self-defense?

Answer--The Soviet Union stands for a substantial reduction of armaments by all states and for the unconditional prohibition of atomic, hydrogen, and other mass destruction weapons. At the same time the Soviet Union proceeds from the premise that every sovereign state may have the necessary armed forces for self-defense.

As is known, the proposals of the Soviet Government for the peace treaty with Japan provide that independent, peaceable, and democratic Japan may have the necessary armed forces for self-defense.

5--Concerning the development of cultural ties between Japan and the USSR

I am deeply convinced that the expansion of cultural ties between Japan and the USSR will have a positive influence on strengthening genuinely friendly relations between Japan and the USSR even if the establishment of normal relations between our two countries is not expected in the near future. What is your opinion on this question?

Answer--The Soviet Union readily maintains and strives in every way to develop cultural relations with other countries, Japan included. Many scientific and cultural delegations from other countries have visited the USSR in recent years, and Soviet cultural delegations have been to a number of foreign countries. From Japan too, as is known, several delegations have visited the Soviet Union. We have no doubt that there are a good many people in Japan, and among Japanese intellectuals particularly, who sincerely strive for the expansion of cultural ties with the peoples of the USSR.

There can be no doubt that this will exert a positive influence upon the strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and the USSR, in which our peoples as well as other peoples who are striving for the development of international cooperation and the strengthening of universal peace are interested.

Respectfully yours, V. Molotov Sept 11, 1954, Moscow