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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1954 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the notes of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Government of the United States of 5 and 8 September 1954 in connexion with the violation by an American military aircraft of the State frontier of the USSR in the area of Cape Ostrovnoi.

I would request you to have these notes circulated as official documents of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be etc.

A. Vyshinsky

Encl: as indicated

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SOVIET GOVERNMENT NOTE HANDED TO THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR
IN MOSCOW, MR. BOHLEN, ON 5 SEPTEMBER 1954

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deems it necessary to inform the Government of the United States of America of the following:

According to precisely established facts, on 4 September 1954 at 19.12 hours Vladivostok time, a twin-engined military aircraft of the "Neptune" type bearing identification markings of the United States Air Force violated the State frontier of the USSR in the area of Cape Ostrovnoi, east of the Port of Nakhodka.

When two Soviet fighter-planes approached the American violating aircraft with the intention of indicating to it that it was within the boundaries of the USSR and of suggesting that it should immediately leave the air space of the Soviet Union, the American aircraft opened fire on them. As a result the Soviet aircraft were compelled to open fire in return, and thereafter the American aircraft made off towards the sea.

The Soviet Government deems it necessary to draw the United States Government's attention to the fact that this is not the first case of violation by American military aircraft of the State frontier of the USSR.

The Soviet Government expresses its determined protest to the United States Government against this new flagrant violation of the Soviet frontier by an American military aircraft, insists that the persons guilty of this violation should be held strictly accountable, and expects the United States Government to take immediate steps to prohibit in future violations of the State frontier of the Soviet Union by American aircraft.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT NOTE ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
IN MOSCOW ON 8 SEPTEMBER 1954

In connexion with United States Government Notes No. 202 and No. 203 of 6 September 1954, the Soviet Government deems it necessary to state the following:

As reported in the Soviet Government's note of 5 September, according to precisely established facts on 4 September at 19.12 hours Vladivostok time (18.12 hours local time) an American twin-engined military aircraft of the "Neptune" type violated the State frontier of the USSR in the area of Cape Ostrovnoi, east of Port Nakhodka. When two Soviet fighter aircraft drew near the American aircraft with the intention of indicating to it that it was within the boundaries of the Soviet Union and of suggesting that it should immediately leave the air space of the USSR, the above-mentioned American aircraft opened fire on the Soviet aircraft. In view of such a hostile, unwarranted act by the American violating aircraft towards the Soviet aircraft, the latter were compelled to open fire in return, after which the American aircraft made off towards the sea. The Soviet authorities have no information on the further fate of the violating aircraft.

The United States Government in its Note No. 203 in reply to the above-mentioned note of the Soviet Government of 5 September without any foundation rejects the facts cited in the Soviet note of the flagrant violation by an aircraft of the United States Air Force of the frontier of the Soviet Union and the uncalled-for firing by the said aircraft on two Soviet fighters. At the same time, the United States Government concedes in its notes that a United States Navy aircraft was in the area indicated in the Soviet note on 4 September at 18.18 hours local time, which corresponds roughly to the time indicated in the Soviet Government's note.

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The United States Government is attempting to represent the matter as though the American military aircraft alleged to be engaged in a patrol mission along the Siberian coast was "over the high seas", that it did not fire on the Soviet aircraft and that it was attacked by them.

The fact is, however, that such an authoritative Government organ as the United States Ministry of Defence stated on 6 September that the American aircraft opened fire on the Soviet fighters. In their statements to the Press, the members of the crew of the American aircraft confirm that they fired on the Soviet fighters. Thus the statement that the American aircraft did not fire at all is not in accordance with the facts.

Furthermore, in the United States Government note No. 202, it is affirmed that the encounter between the American aircraft and the Soviet fighters took place over the high seas, one hundred miles to the east of Vladivostok. The fact is, however, that the point 100 miles to the east of Vladivostok is not over the high seas, as affirmed in the American note, but in the territory of the Soviet Union. According to the American Press, United States Naval officials were obliged to admit this.

The allegations contained in the United States Government's note are fully refuted by the accurately established facts adduced in the Soviet Government's note of 5 September, and also by the above-mentioned communication from the United States Ministry of Defence and the statements made by the crew members of the American aircraft.

In giving in its note an account, contrary to the established facts, of the flight of the American aircraft which violated the frontier of the USSR and without any cause opened fire on the Soviet aircraft, the United States Government evaded the question of what patrol functions the American military aircraft might have been carrying out in the airspace of the Soviet Union along the "Siberian coast", and why it is at all necessary for American aircraft to go on "patrol missions" in the Vladivostok area, which, as everyone knows, is situated at a distance of about 10,000 kilometres from the coast of the United States. In this connexion it is legitimate to ask how the Government of the United States of America would react if Soviet military aircraft began

to "patrol" in the neighbourhood of the national frontiers of the United States of America, in the San Francisco area for example, and if they began systematically to violate that frontier and on encountering American aircraft defending the front. opened fire on them. The Government of the United States of America would scarcely adopt an attitude of indifference towards such an occurrence.

The circumstances of this particular violation of the State frontier of the USSR in the Far East by an American military aircraft, and the circumstances of earlier violations of the Soviet frontier by American aircraft, leave no room for doubt that such violations of the frontiers of the Soviet Union by American military aircraft are connected with the fulfilment of definite instructions by the American military command.

These acts by the American military command, and in particular the violation of the national frontier of the USSR by an American military aircraft on 4 September this year, are flagrant violations of the elementary standards of international law. They cannot be otherwise interpreted than as acts of provocation calculated to aggravate the situation in the Far East.

In view of the above, the Soviet Government confirms its note of 5 September and insists that the Government of the United States of America take the necessary steps to prevent future violations of the national frontiers of the Soviet Union by American aircraft.
