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Petrov' case

29 Aug.

USA Mission to the U.N., Press Release

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release No. 2447
August 24, 1956

The United States has been advised by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, that he has dismissed a Secretariat employee, Viktor Ivanovich Petrov, for having engaged in activities beyond the scope of his official capacity as a Secretariat employee. Petrov is a Soviet national who was employed by the United Nations as a translator in the Language and Meetings Section of the Department of Conference Services.

Petrov's dismissal came after consideration by Mr. Hammarskjold of information given him by the Department of State. The information was based on evidence furnished by the Department of Justice that Petrov had attempted to obtain information vital to the security and defense of the United States.

The representation was made to Mr. Hammarskjold, as Secretary General of the United Nations, by James J. Wadsworth, Deputy United States Representative to the United Nations. It was based upon a provision contained in the Headquarters Agreement entered into between the United States and the United Nations in June, 1947 and enacted into law by a Joint Resolution of the Congress of the United States as Public Law 357 -- 80th Congress, approved August 4, 1947.

The Headquarters Agreement governs the establishment of the United Nations Headquarters in the United States and, in Section 13, makes provision for the manner in which the laws and regulations in force in the United States regarding the residence of aliens shall be applied. Section 13 provides, in part, that the privileges granted officials of the United Nations, representatives of member nations and others shall not be construed to grant them exemption

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