

Around the Nation

Soviet Bid to Link Bombing, Hostages Condemned by U.S.

The United States rejected as scurrilous and malicious Soviet attempts to link the bombing of its U.N. Mission in New York to the Iranian hostage crisis.

State Department spokesman Thomas Reston warned that articles like that published by the official Soviet news agency Tass—which made the link—“can only further injury our relations with the Soviet Union.”

“can only further injure our relations with the Soviet mission to the U.N.—to any observer have absolutely nothing in common,” Reston said. “The Tass article can only be looked upon as a scurrilous attempt to justify the Iranian action in holding our diplomats hostage.

“We therefore find it not only misleading, but also malicious and such article can only further injure our relations with the Soviet Union.”

Reston said Washington is aware of Moscow's official position on the Tehran crisis and “we certainly are appreciative of their help in various international forums, certainly in the U.N. Security Council.

“But we wish that all their actions and their press reporting would be consistent with what their official position is. This does not appear to be consistent.”