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Russian micro-waves plan 'to drive U.S. envoys mad'

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE bombardment of the American Embassy in Moscow with micro-waves caused the Central Intelligence Agency to fear that the Russians were trying to cause psychological damage to American diplomats, according to the Washington columnist, Jack Anderson, yesterday.

A secret project code-named "Operation Pandora" was then set up, substituting monkeys for diplomats to study the effects of low radiation impulses on their behaviour.

Details in the Pandora file, says Mr Anderson, reveal that during the 1960s American security men discovered strange micro-wave impulses, some steady, some pulsating, directed into the American Embassy from a nearby Moscow building.

The CIA learned that Russian medical literature suggested that micro-waves could cause nervous tension, irritability and disorders. They speculated that the Soviet

Intelligence might be trying to drive the American diplomats insane.

Working on micro-wave data monitored by the Embassy, American doctors and military scientists carried out micro-wave tests for several months on monkeys while a similar experiment was conducted on rabbits.

No conclusive proof

The matter was taken up by the Americans at the 1967 Glassboro meeting between President Johnson and Mr Kosygin, according to Mr Anderson.

The Pandora tests finally concluded that high radiation could cause physical damage to parts of the body. But there was no conclusive proof that low level radiation, such as that which the Embassy was subjected to, was harmful.

Another theory was that the micro-waves were being used as part of a sophisticated new intelligence surveillance technique in which conversations could be picked up from the bending of the waves by voices.