

RUSSIAN DENIES MOON RACE IS ON

Scientist, Here, Says Soviet
Plans No Landing Soon

A Soviet scientist said yesterday that his country was not in a race to the moon with the United States and had no plans to send astronauts to the moon "in the near future." He did not specify what he meant by the "near future."

The scientist, Dr. Leonid I. Sedov, is head of the Soviet delegation to the 19th Congress of the International Astronautics Federation, being held at the Waldorf-Astoria this week. He discussed the Russian space program at an informal news conference.

"The question of sending astronauts to the moon at this time is not an item on our agenda," he said through an interpreter. "The exploration of the moon is possible, but it is not a priority."

Dr. Sedov said the timetable for Soviet manned expeditions into space depended primarily on the next series of flight tests, using the powerful Zond rockets.

"The program for the exploration of the moon depends upon the success of these experiments," he said. "Since the experiments may have various results, it is not possible at this time to be positive about lunar landings."

Dr. Sedov's statement was not the first to play down the idea that the Americans and Russians are in a race to reach the moon. However, his comments, according to experts in the field, were more emphatic than most Soviet statements in the past.

Dr. Sedov is a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and an aerodynamics expert at the University of Moscow.

Dr. Sedov and his party—40 Soviet scientists and space experts—were invited to visit Cape Kennedy, to view selected areas of the American space program.

"We do not intend to go to Cape Kennedy at this time," he said, because, "quite frankly, we cannot reciprocate."

The International Astronautics Federation is a nongovernmental organization composed of space science and technology experts from 34 nations. It meets each year to discuss problems common to space scientists. The present session will last through Friday.