

COLD WAR: DIPLOMACY AND DRAMA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

During the Cold War, the former allies in World War II became enemies who engaged in a precipitous build-up of nuclear arms, but never used them against each other. The tension between the two super-powers played out in some dramatic moments at the United Nations, the international venue where Member States could meet and engage in discourse, however frosty.

Undoubtedly the most memorable moment of this high-anxiety era came with the visit of Premier Nikita Khrushchev to the UN. He famously removed one of his shoes and pounded it on the table of the Soviet delegation in the UN General Assembly Hall. The image captured here by a TASS photographer does not show the shoe-pounding incident, but it does reveal the agitation of Khrushchev during this visit.

TASS photographers recorded several trips of Soviet officials to the United Nations and to the United States, as the two powers engaged in a policy of “peaceful coexistence.”