GOLF IN RUSSIA

There is no golf in Russia. That is, there wasn't until a pair of American businessmen visited Moscow a few months ago. One of them, Robert F Dwyer, of Portland, Ore., is a member of the executive committee of the U.S.G.A.

He persuaded his luncheon host, Dimitri F Varaksin, a Soviet Deputy Minister in charge of lands, timber and power, to try a golf swing—and this could very well be the beginning of the end of the U.S.S.R.

It was in the sunshine of Moscow, with the staff of Mr Varaksin's headquarters watching that the Russian took the driver in his hands, writes Jerry Pratt, Business Editor of The Portland Oregonian, in the August issue of the U.S.G.A. Golf Journal.

“Our host took the long-stemmed club back above his shoulders and swung viciously and well, both feet planted powerfully on the ground, his shoulders coming through in a natural swing. He missed.

“When the club came down again it smacked the golf ball cleanly on the cheek so that it rose in a drive of 60 yards to the wall of a shed at the end of the garden, bounced off the shed and rattled around in the rough. There was applause and Mr Varaksin gave an order that was equivalent to 'Find that ball'

“They were still looking for the ball when we left. Mr Dwyer said that was a good sign."

(With grateful acknowledgments to "The Golf Course Reporter")