

The USSR lost little time debunking Nixon's boast of a special relationship with Brezhnev and his boast of having preserved peace by the vigor of his action. At ~~at~~ 5:15 a.m. I heard the Westinghouse service say it says it did nothing to justify his "alert" and that all he did was prompted by his domestic needs! The way their statements work, it is more than possible that this began inside the Soviet hierarchy prior to his press conf. It would merely be worse if this were not the case. Either way, it punctures his self-blown balloon. This Soviet statement is consistent with all the visible signs. One I did not note earlier I heard the morning of the "alert", that contrary to official statements it had been ordered at a number of bases and reported prior to the time of the announcement. And the attack on European "allies"-they were never told of the alert. HW 10/27/73