

Johnson Hints A-

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Treaty Compromise

Views Viet War as No Impediment

**Assures Russians
Their Interests Are
Not Endangered**

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho, Aug. 26—President Johnson indicated today that an agreement may be reached with the Soviet Union on a treaty limiting the spread of nuclear weapons.

In a speech filled with unusually warm gestures toward the Soviet Union, Mr. Johnson said, "I believe that we can find acceptable compromise language on which we can all agree."

The President also explicitly assured Soviet leaders that the war in Vietnam would not spread to other countries, would not endanger vital Russian interests, and should not be an impediment to peaceful negotiations on other world issues.

Mr. Johnson said "the dogmas and vocabularies of the Cold War were enough for one generation; the world must not now flounder in the backwaters of old stagnant passions."

First Such Hint

His hint of a compromise on

a nuclear nonproliferation treaty was the Administration's first public suggestion that the long stalemate may be near an end. However, Mr. Johnson did not disclose the source of his new optimism.

Negotiations on a treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons have been bogged down in the 17-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, which recessed yesterday after seven months of talks.

The major sticking point has been Russia's objection to any treaty language that would permit sharing of the management of nuclear arms with West Germany. The United States has proposed a multilateral nuclear force in which the NATO nations would have a role and it has refused to foreclose that possibility despite a lack of European enthusiasm for the scheme.

Suggested Solution

There has been speculation in Washington that the stalemate might be broken by allowing West Germany to participate in Western nuclear

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Democrats of 13 Western states give unstinting support to President and policies.
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planning through the so-called McNamara Committee while denying that country access to nuclear "hardware."

(The President's language was much stronger on the possibility of a compromise than that of U.S. officials familiar with the internal Administration battle over the issue.

(These officials said yesterday that they had as yet found no compromise language but were still working on several ideas. Mr. Johnson some weeks ago publicly prodded his aides to find a solution.)

Bipartisan Style Set

Mr. Johnson's appearances in a three-state Western swing today were in the purposefully bipartisan style he set in his New England tour last week-end with both Republicans and Democrats conspicuous on his platforms.

He had come to Idaho, he told a crowd of about 2000 in Pocatello where his plane first landed, to look, listen, and learn. "All Americans... regardless of party can unite on an occasion like this," he said.

He also observed that all three states visited today have Republican Governors and that his entourage included Senators and Congressmen from both political parties.

With him during the day were almost the entire congressional delegations from Oklahoma, Colorado and Idaho.

In Pocatello, he introduced both Republican Sen. Len Jordan and former Democratic Rep. Ralph Harding, who are in a virgous battle for the seat now held by Jordan.

Big Welcome in Denver

In Denver, the President got his biggest welcome of the season as thousands turned out at the airport and lined the seven-mile motorcade route in 91 degree temperature.

Three times Mr. Johnson stopped his limousine and bounded out to shake hands and address the exuberant crowds that swarmed toward him.

"I'm so happy to be here... to see so many inspiring faces," he declared through a loudspeaker system. The crowds cheered and sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President." Mr. Johnson will celebrate his 58th birthday at his Texas ranch on Saturday.

In Idaho Falls this morning, the President spoke at the site of the Atomic Energy Commission's National Reactor Testing Station.

He confirmed the views of other Administration officials that U.S.-Soviet agreement is near on a treaty limiting activity in space to peaceful purposes.

The two nations have presented similar proposals for such an agreement and discussions will be resumed on Sept. 12. "I am confident that with good will the remaining issues can be quickly resolved," he said.

The proposed non-proliferation treaty, the President acknowledged, would not prohibit a nuclear war but would "help to prevent a chain reaction that could consume the living of the earth." He added: "We must move ahead—for we all have a stake in building world peace."

Sees Continued Competition

Such agreements and other steps toward peace, he said, does not mean that the United States and Russia would become "bedfellows" or would cease competition.

"But it does mean that we must both want—and work for—that day when 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore'."

The President's reference to a contained war in Vietnam was an explicit appeal for U.S.-Soviet cooperation while that conflict continues.

The U.S. objective in Vietnam, he said, is "local and limited: We are trying to protect the independence of South Vietnam and we are trying to provide her people with a chance to decide for themselves where they are going and what they will become."

Sees No Threat to Soviets

Mr. Johnson added: "These objectives can be attained within the borders of Vietnam. They do not threaten the vital interests of the Soviet Union or the territory of any of her friends.

"We seek in Southeast Asia an order and security that would contribute to the peace of the world—and in that, the Soviet Union has a very large stake."

Mr. Johnson acknowledged that nuclear weapons have deterred war and helped to check Communist expansion.

"But uneasy is the peace

that wears a nuclear crown," he added. "And we cannot be satisfied with a situation in which the world is capable of extinction in a moment of error, or madness, or anger.

"Nor can I fail to remember that whatever the cause—by design or by chance—almost 300 million people would perish in a full-scale nuclear exchange between the East and West."

Gets Monorary Degree

At the University of Denver, where he was awarded a honorary degree this afternoon, Mr.

Johnson spoke generally and with frequent touches of incidental humor about the goals of U.S. foreign policy.

"The overriding rule which I want to affirm," he said, "is that our foreign policy must always be an extension of our domestic policy. Our safest guide to what we do abroad is always what we do at home."

Just as Americans look for signs of poverty and oppression as the root causes of violence in American cities, the same privations are at work in underdeveloped countries

abroad, he said. The United States believes in negotiations and deliberations with foreign countries just as it seeks to apply those techniques to racial or labor disputes domestically, he said.

In Pryor, Okla., tonight, the President called for "intense cooperation" of all levels of government to meet national needs. He spoke at the mid-American industrial site, where ground was broken for a new water and sewer system financed by a grant and loan from the Economic Development Administration.