

# U.S. to Push Soviet Cooperation in 1967

By Drew Pearson

The biggest foreign policy development to watch in the year 1967 is the unofficial alignment between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

Despite public speeches in Moscow berating U. S. imperialism in Vietnam, and despite speeches in Washington denouncing communism, the Soviet and



Pearson

American Governments are deliberately settling into a groove in which the two would move toward world peace.

This has brought howls of anguish from Peking, where the radio almost every week denounces the Russians as the "stooges for American military imperialists."

Significantly the current policy is the one advocated by Nikita Khrushchev but generally rejected by John F. Kennedy until near the end of his career.

In August, 1961, during the height of the Berlin crisis, Khrushchev told me at the end of a two-day interview: "Please tell President Kennedy that if our two nations can stand together, no nation can ever start a war."

He was referring chiefly to Red China.

Kennedy did not take Khrushchev up on this offer until the summer of 1963, a few months before JFK was assassinated. Meanwhile, Khrushchev had his own problems with the Red army and Russian defense industries. The latter are just as demanding for orders as Boeing, General Dynamics and the big defense plants in the United States. They joined the army in objecting to Khrushchev's budget cuts and his withdrawal from Cuba during the missile crisis without getting any return concessions from the United States.

Kennedy had exacted a tough price from Khrushchev in Cuba—a complete and ignominious withdrawal which was excellent politics for the Democratic Party three weeks before an important congressional election.

Leonid Brezhnev, who replaced Khrushchev, had the backing of the Red army and Soviet defense industries. Brezhnev, then in charge of industrial production, was considered a sure bet to increase military spending.

## Spending Increased

U.S. intelligence agencies have now verified what I reported in 1961, that Khrushchev had consistently opposed the Soviet defense lobby. Brezhnev immediately boosted the defense budget by more than 50 per cent. U.S. intelligence now reports that the 12-million-ruble budget for 1965 was only half what the Soviet Union actually spent for defense. The results have now been photographed by American satellites and show more than 300 new ICBM missile sites and the beginnings of an antimissile missile system.

The political picture inside Russia is now fairly clear. Premier Alexei Kosygin, who favored consumer spending, as against military spending, has been out in front taking the bows, partly to placate the Russian people, also the United States. But Brezhnev, who favored military spending, has been the power behind the scenes.

Now that Russia has narrowed the missile gap down to about three to one favoring the United States, there are definite signs that the Soviet military budget is being whittled down.

American reports from Moscow indicate that the recent public announcement of a military increase was issued chiefly for political effect. Actually the military budget is being cut back. Now that Brezhnev is more secure, he is emerging as the real Soviet boss. He is now strong enough to meet the United States halfway on arms stabilization.

A treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons is

almost certain to be signed in Geneva this winter. Additional talks regarding the truce in the missile race will be started by U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson when he arrives in Moscow this month.

## Future Accords

More important, there's a move under way to secure cooperation between the United States and Russia regarding foreign aid. In the past the United States has dumped foreign aid all over the world in competition with Moscow. Some recipients started Communist movements in order to scare the United States into sending more aid; others started capitalist movements in order to scare Moscow into sending more aid.

Already there have been talks between U.S. and Soviet diplomats in Africa aimed at cooperation, in order to block Chinese influence. One of Peking's chief aims was to penetrate the relatively undeveloped, unpopulated continent of Africa. This has now pretty well evaporated, thanks in part to the leadership of former Assistant Secretary of State G. Mennen Williams.

There has also been cooperation between the United States and Russia to India, in regard to both weapons and wheat. And you can look for more cooperation between Washington and Moscow in the distribution of foreign aid.

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