

BREZHNEV LINKED TO KISSINGER TRIP

APR 27 1972

Visit Is Said to Have Been in Response to a Suggestion in a Letter to Nixon

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 26 — Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, personally initiated Henry A. Kissinger's secret weekend trip to Moscow, a well placed administration source said today. Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Kissinger discussed the Vietnam situation and other issues sure to arise during President Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union next month.

The official said that Mr. Brezhnev's suggestion that a trusted aide of Mr. Nixon come to Moscow was made recently in a letter to the President. Mr. Nixon, after consulting with Mr. Kissinger, his adviser on national security, and with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, decided to send Mr. Kissinger to have his views made known as clearly as possible to Mr. Brezhnev.

Although virtually every matter facing the two nations was discussed, the Administration source said, Vietnam was clearly the major subject.

It was understood that Mr. Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko affirmed the Soviet view that the Paris

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negotiations should be resumed. Last night, Washington and Saigon announced that they would end their boycott of the sessions, and in Paris today the Vietnamese Communists agreed to attend tomorrow. [Details on Page 21.] FILED PONS-

Mr. Kissinger, in the Moscow discussions, reportedly repeated Mr. Nixon's belief that major powers have a responsibility for urging restraint on those nations they supply with arms.

The Administration source said that one factor leading Mr. Nixon to agree to resume the Paris peace talks tomorrow—despite an earlier decision to boycott the negotiations until the North Vietnamese ceased their offensive in South Vietnam—was the stress put by Mr. Brezhnev on their possible value.

By resuming the talks, the Administration is testing not only Hanoi's intentions, the Administration source said, but also Moscow's leverage on the North Vietnamese. The general view here is that although Moscow has limited influence over

Hanoi's actions, it serves as a conduit for North Vietnam's views.

Mr. Brezhnev's correspondence with Mr. Nixon began early last year and has been regular since then. Its contents have been carefully guarded, but have been alluded to by Mr. Kissinger several times — including his remarks yesterday about his secret trip to Moscow.

Corresponded Since 1971

He said that the two leaders had been in contact, and "in the course of these exchanges, it was felt in the last few weeks that a more direct exchange might be desirable."

"Therefore, by mutual agreement," Mr. Kissinger said, he was sent to Moscow.

Mr. Brezhnev's decision to spend four days with Mr. Kissinger was viewed by Soviet specialists here as unprecedented in recent Soviet history. Mr. Brezhnev, like Mr. Nixon, is an extremely busy man, the specialists said, and moreover, has only in the last two years been seeing any Western of-

ficials. He has never spent this much time with an aide to a top official.

Mr. Brezhnev, by his actions, a specialist said, was underscoring the importance he attaches to Soviet-American relations and to Mr. Nixon's visit to Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, which begins on May 22. State Department officials were comparing the Kissinger-Brezhnev meetings with those held by Harry Hopkins, an aide to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, who was sent on special missions to Moscow to confer with Stalin.

Among the issues discussed by Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Kissinger were the talks on limitation of strategic arms, now reaching a crucial phase in Helsinki. Gerard C. Smith, the head of the American delegation, returned to Washington today to confer with Mr. Nixon on the prospects for a first-phase agreement.

Arms Accord Expected

Mr. Nixon has said that he hopes to sign a first-stage agreement on arms limitation while in Moscow. But in the last few weeks, some White House aides have suggested that the Vietnam fighting might inhibit Mr. Nixon from making an agreement short of a freeze on all offensive weapons.

The Russians have been refusing to include submarine missiles in a first-stage agreement, and the Defense Department is on record as opposing an accord that does not include submarines.

Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Brezhnev also discussed such questions as possible increase in trade between the two countries. While Mr. Kissinger was in Moscow, a high-level United States delegation also there agreed in principle on a merchant marine accord, opening the way to a Soviet-American shipping pact on moving goods between the two countries.

That delegation, headed by Nathaniel Samuels, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, had no idea that Mr. Kissinger was also in Moscow, a member of that group said today.