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INTERESTED AUDIENCE: A Moscow family watches first appearance on Soviet television of an American President

For Many Russians, Nixon's TV Address Hit Home

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MOSCOW, May 28 — The initial reaction of a few ordinary Russians to President Nixon's televised address tonight was favorable, but some asked why he had not mentioned Vietnam in view of his emphasis on moves toward peace.

"It was great," said a medical worker in her mid-twenties.

"Excellent—just tailored to the Russians," commented an editor in his fifties. But other comments were more qualified.

"Hundreds have died in Vietnam and he talks about Tanya," said a hall porter in the Peking Hotel, commenting on Mr. Nixon's references to a schoolgirl whose family was wiped out during the siege of Leningrad in World War II, "but there are kids like Tanya in Vietnam."

'But He Spoke Well'

Then, possibly fearful that his remarks might have been offensive to an American, he quickly added: "But he spoke well. Let's hope for the best."

Others expressed surprise and pleasure at Mr. Nixon's emphasis on Soviet-American cooperation and at his extensive use of Russian proverbs, his references to peace and to children.

"This is most appealing to Russians," said a writer. "He must have thought a lot about Russian psychology." A language specialist suggested that the speech had been deliberately pitched at ordinary Russians, rather than their leaders, and said it had been effective. "It was a very good speech," a well-dressed, middle-aged guest at the Peking Hotel commented. "I had not expected him to talk that way—so much about cooperation with us."

"It was better than what he said before," the guest continued, referring to a 1959 Mos-

cow speech. "But then, they have signed these agreements and that is important."

For some, the mere appearance on Soviet television of an American chief of state for the first time was a great event. Mr. Nixon appeared on Soviet TV in 1959, but he was then the Vice President.

"Papa says Mr. Nixon is going to be on television tonight and it is very important," a 12-year-old girl reported enthusiastically, about an hour before the address. "He has invited people to come in to see it. I have to hurry home, too, to see Mr. Nixon."

Other Russians were more nonchalant. Small groups clustered about television sets in hotel lobbies in Moscow and,

presumably, elsewhere across this country, but there was nothing to rival the intense interest stirred by the visit of Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev to America in 1960. Soviet newspapers carried a reference to Mr. Nixon's appearance in normal television schedules. They ran no special advance articles.

On the fifth floor of the Peking Hotel, a dozen people gathered around the set to watch the entire 20-minute speech. But one couple passed through the lobby, glanced at the set and kept walking.

Mr. Nixon's reference to a "mushroom rain"—a favorite expression among Russians—brought smiles from his listeners, as did his recounting of

an anecdote about a traveler asking a woodsman how far it was to the next village.

When the speech ended, two men in the hotel began talking about it, but all the others walked away in silence.

The Soviet media immediately gave the speech unusually prominent attention, evidently signaling official pleasure at the line Mr. Nixon had taken, as well as satisfaction over the agreements signed earlier this week.

The Moscow radio extended a normal five-minute newscast to eight minutes and devoted the entire program to a resumé of the speech, read with warmth.

Listeners who recalled the President's appearance on Soviet television in 1959 were much more complimentary about this speech.

"I remember very well what he said in 1959 when he was boasting about American wealth, which was not very nice for Russians to hear when we were not so well off," a woman recalled. "But he did not make that mistake this time. He spoke nicely to the Russians and when he talked about Americans, he compared them to Russians."

Vietnam Omission Cited

"But even my children said, if he is talking about peace, why doesn't he say something about Vietnam? Still, it was a very good speech and I am sure most people will like it."

Some intellectuals, though pleased by Mr. Nixon's tone, questioned his sincerity.

"It sounded very friendly," said one man cautiously. "If everything turns out as he put it, there are grounds for satisfaction."

A woman was more direct. "As a speech, it was all right," she commented. "It was aimed at your feelings. But I don't think he was sincere."

Tanya of Leningrad Died in 1943

Tanya Savicheva, a Leningrad schoolgirl, lived in House 13, Second Line, Vasilevsky Island, Leningrad. During and after the winter of 1941-42, when the city was under siege by the Germans, she recorded the deaths of her relatives in a notebook that is still kept at the Leningrad historical museum.

It was from that notebook that President Nixon quoted in his address on Soviet television yesterday.

Tanya was evacuated from Leningrad in the spring of 1942 and sent to Children's Home 48 in the village of Shakhty, where she died in the summer of 1943 of chronic dysentery.

The entries scrawled in the notebook read:

Zhenya died 28 December, 12:30 in the morning, 1941.

Grannie died 25 January, 3 o'clock, 1942.

Leka died 17 March, 5 o'clock in the morning, 1942.



Tanya Savicheva

Uncle Vasya died 13 April, 2 o'clock at night, 1942.

Uncle Lyosha, 10 May, 4 o'clock in the afternoon, 1942.

Mama, 13 May, 7:30 A.M., 1942.

The Savichevs are dead. All are dead. Only Tanya is left.

According to the Soviet journal Literaturnaya Gazeta, Tanya was 11 years of age. Mr. Nixon gave her age as 12.