

U.S. ENVOY MAKES SOVIET TV SPEECH

Stoessel's Candid July 4 Talk Invites Broader Contacts

By HEDRICK SMITH
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, July 4—In an unusual Independence Day address on Soviet television, the United States Ambassador, Walter J. Stoessel Jr., told the Soviet people tonight that Americans would "welcome even broader contacts" on an individual level as a part of improving Soviet-American relations.

Mr. Stoessel's brief address, in Russian, on the nightly Soviet television news show, "Vremya," was the first of an American Ambassador since

Foy D. Kohler made a similar appearance in 1964.

The decision to grant Mr. Stoessel four and a half minutes on Soviet television was seen as a friendly gesture following President Nixon's visit. Customarily, this privilege is extended only to representatives of Communist, other pro-Soviet or friendly neutral countries on their national days.

The Soviet press today was dominated by texts of agreements signed at the end of the visit and reports of reactions from abroad. Izvestia, the government newspaper, called the latest talks between Mr. Nixon and the Soviet party leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, "an important milestone on the road of improving relations" between the two countries.

Ambassador Stoessel cited the agreements signed by the two leaders as evidence of "our joint commitment to give a permanent basis to our relation-

ship, to make the improvement in our ties irreversible."

Then, as if to reassure the Soviet public that this policy would endure regardless of Mr. Nixon's personal fate, he added, "That is the policy of President Nixon. It is the policy of our two major political parties."

Plea for Contact

Then, reasserting the repeated plea of Western governments for opening much broader and freer people-to-people contacts as part of East-West accommodation, Mr. Stoessel said:

"I take particular pride in the fact that last year over 4,000 Soviet and American citizens exchanged visits in connection with our cooperative agreements—trade and naval officials, cosmonauts, scientists, doctors, agricultural specialists and many others.

"We Americans would welcome even broader contacts—both official and unofficial—

between our peoples, and even greater opportunities to exchange ideas.

"Our aim should be to understand each other better, because mutual understanding is important to a stable relationship between us."

It is extremely unusual, if not unprecedented, to hear a Western ambassador speak so candidly on Soviet television about the desire of the West for broader and freer human contacts, an issue that has been an important controversy in the preparatory round of the European security conference at Geneva.

Mr. Stoessel closed by saying that Americans "attach enormous importance to the search for lasting peace," echoing a theme of both President Nixon and Mr. Brezhnev during their toasts and public speeches during the past week.

THE FRESH AIR FUND.