Moscow Is All Set For Nixon

Moscow

The bubble car arrived in town yesterday, the honor guard goose-stepped through a final rehearsal and Soviet bureaucracy moved firmly into place for President Nixon's visit.

The presidential limousine, with its bullet-proof bubbletop and its District of Columbia bicentennial registration plates No. 227-100, was hidden behind a snack bar in the U.S. e m b a s s y with a Secret Service man on a folding chair to watch it.

"Bet the Russians got it bugged already," mused a red-haired secretary in line for cheeseburgers. "Let's get some air in the left rear," barked a junior diplomat to one even more junior.

Watering trucks sprayed the roadway and crews of workers, mostly women swinging huge scythes, tidied up the grass embankments along Leninsky Prospect, the eight-lane boulevard that the Nixon motorcade will negotiate on its way from the airport into town.

With the weather hot and muggy, the average Muskovite paid more attention to the little tank trucks selling belts of kvas, the mildly alcoholic beverage made from stale bread.

There were a group of curious onlookers at the bulletin board outside the U.S. embassy, where large posters of Nixon and Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev were put on display. But the crowd was not nearly as big as that outside a clothing store on Leninsky Prospect, from which the rumor spread rapidly around town that some new items were on the shelves.

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