

## Russian Translation

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## Nixon's Missing Word

## Moscow

A statement by President Nixon Thursday night that the "personal relationship" between him and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev would be the basis for a continued Soviet-American detente stirred a controversy yesterday when the word "personal" was dropped in some places in the official Russian translation of the Nixon remarks.

A number of observers here interpreted the Nixon statement as an effort to show his leadership is needed for world peace and the omission as an indication the Soviet government did not want to tie relations with the U.S. to a President who is under impeachment proceedings.

When the omission was raised at a news briefing,

Leonid Zamyatin, director General of Tass, the official news agency, said it was a matter of translation and accused the reporter who asked the question of trying to create a distortion.

Thursday night, in an exchange of toasts at a state dinner that marked the opening of his third summit with Brezhnev, the President said:

"They (past agreements with the United States) were possible because of a personal relationship that was established between the general secretary and the President of the United States. And that personal relationship extends to the top officials in both of our governments."

"It has been said that the agreement is only as good as the will of the parties to

keep it." Mr. Nixon continued. "Because of our personal relationship, there is no question about our will to keep these agreements and to make more where they are in our mutual interests."

In yesterday morning's edition of Pravda, the translation into Russian showed that Mr. Nixon's first use of the word "personal" was included, as it pertained to the basis for past agreements. But it was dropped, in reference to future agreements.

The omission was noted at a news conference conducted by Zamyatin and Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary on the progress of the summit. Robert G. Kaiser, Moscow correspondent for the Washington Post, said, "As I perceive it, the personal rela-

tionship has disappeared from the Tass translation."

Zamyatin said he had not compared the English and Russian texts but that it was a "question concerning translations," and that Brezhnev and Mr. Nixon "have repeatedly emphasized the importance of their personal relationship."

Later in the conference, Zamyatin said he had read the text in Pravda during the question-and-answer session and had concluded that Kaiser had "tried to present in distorted light" the Tass translation.

Ziegler, coming to Zamyatin's support, said, "The question that was raised is a matter of translation and nothing more."

New York Times