

Tass Deletion of a Word In Nixon Speech Disputed

**'Personal,' in 'Personal Relationship'
Between President and Brezhnev,
Is Lost in Pravda's Translation**

By JOHN HERBERS

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MOSCOW, June 28—A controversy was stirred here today when the word "personal" was dropped from the official Russian translation of a speech by President Nixon last night in which he said that the "personal relationship" between him and the Soviet leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, would be the basis for continued Soviet-American accommodation.

The Nixon speech was interpreted by some here as an effort to show that his leadership was needed for world peace

political opponents, the Democrats.

Last night, in an exchange of toasts at a state dinner marking the opening of his third summit meeting with Mr. Brezhnev, the President said that past agreements between the Soviet Union and 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."

2d 'Personal' Is Dropped

In this morning's edition of Pravda, the Communist party newspaper, the translation used Mr. Nixon's first "personal," as it pertained to the basis for past agreements. But "personal" was dropped in the second reference, to future agreements.

The omission was noted at a news conference on the progress of the summit meetings conducted by Mr. Zamyatin and Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary. Robert G. Kaiser, Moscow correspondent for The Washington Post, said: "As I perceive it, the personal relationship has disappeared from the Tass translation."

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

'In Distored Light'

Later in the conference, Mr. Zamyatin said he had read the text in Pravda as the question-and-answer session was going on, and had concluded that Mr. Kaiser had "tried to present in distored light" Tass's translation. To prove his point, he then read from the first part of Mr. Nixon's statement—that personal relations between the two leaders had led to agreements in the past—but he did not read the second part, which contained the omission.

Mr. Ziegler came to Mr. Zamyatin's aid. "The question that was raised is a matter of translation and nothing more," the White House press secretary said.



Leonid M. Zamyatin, head of Tass, defended the dropping of word "personal" from the Russian translation of Mr. Nixon's reference to his relationship with Leonid I. Brezhnev, party chief.

and the omission as an indication that the Soviet Government did not want to tie relations with the United States to a President facing impeachment proceedings.

When the omission was raised at a news briefing, Leonid M. Zamyatin, the director general of Tass, the official press agency, said it was a matter of translation and accused the reporter who asked the question of trying to create a distortion.

Brezhnev's Moves Cited

The incident was considered significant for two reasons: First, the White House has been seeking for some time to show that the President is indispensable for successful foreign policy; second, Mr. Brezhnev, while supporting Mr. Nixon and making it clear that he prefers to deal with him, has taken a number of steps to show that his desire for détente extends beyond Mr. Nixon. The Soviet Communist party leader has sought to establish ties with Mr. Nixon's