

A055

wyyfwwyf

Sorensen NL, 360

By MICHAEL JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW AP - Theodore C. Sorensen told a select Russian audience Tuesday that President Johnson "is going to run in 1968" and that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's chances for the presidency in 1972 are "very good indeed" if he is nominated.

Sorensen, former White House aide who wrote a biography of President John F. Kennedy, said he would like to serve "in another Kennedy administration some day."

He made the remarks when questioned on whether Robert Kennedy might be nominated for president next year. Sorensen spoke to about 60 Russians at a special meeting of the Institute of Soviet-American relations, a government organization for improving scientific and cultural ties with the United States.

Sorensen said that Johnson has, "on the whole, endorsed the Kennedy legacy."

He said Johnson has "very faithfully" carried on the Kennedy administration's program in domestic matters, and has maintained the same objectives in foreign policy although "the methods and tactics have changed somewhat."

Now a New York lawyer, Sorensen spoke on "the legacy of John F. Kennedy." The English-speaking group received the speech with polite applause.

In a question period afterward, a Russian asked Sorensen whether Kennedy's policy in Vietnam would have differed from Johnson's.

"That's a game you can play," Sorensen said, "but it doesn't get anywhere. It is true that Kennedy hoped for an end to the Vietnam conflict and to American involvement there.

"But President Johnson has a very different situation. There are more North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam than there were in 1963. President Johnson feels he is confronted with a war, not with a low-level insurrection."

Sorensen also said he was "discouraged about the prospects for peace in Vietnam."

He said, "The two Kennedy brothers in the U.S. Senate - Robert, from New York, and Edward M., from Massachusetts - are a living example" of what President Kennedy stood for, "and they are carrying out his work."

Sorensen is in Moscow for two weeks with his three sons. He said he hopes to give other talks to Russian audiences, although none has been scheduled yet. He also said he hopes to make a trip to the Soviet Ukraine where his maternal grandparents were born.

DH630ped Aug. 8