

Soviet Blast At U.S. 'Aggression'

Moscow

President Nikolai V. Podgorny reaffirmed Soviet "militant solidarity" with the Indochinese Communists and condemned "U.S. aggression" yesterday in a May Day speech before 1 million persons in Red Square.

"We reaffirm our militant solidarity with the courageous patriots of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia who lead the heroic struggle against U. S. aggression," Podgorny said.

It was the first identification of an "aggressor" in a May Day speech by a Soviet

leader since 1968 when defense minister Marshal Andrei A. Grechko criticized "American aggression" in Vietnam. Since then, Soviet leaders referred to "aggressors" each year but refrained from naming them.

More than 1 million banner-and-flower-waving Soviet citizens marched in bril-

liant sunshine through Red Square to mark this year's May Day celebration.

Travelers entering the capital from Leningrad Monday said anti-American posters set up along the highway had been removed and replaced with standard Communist slogans in apparent preparation for Pres-

ident Nixon's May 20-30 visit. Diplomatic sources said Podgorny's reference to "U.S. aggression" indicated a Soviet determination to maintain a hard-line stance on Indochina in talks with Mr. Nixon.

Leonid I. Brezhnev, Soviet Communist party general secretary, who spoke at last year's celebration, stood silently at Podgorny's left as the president addressed the huge crowd.

Except for green-uniformed, goose-stepping honor guard units lining the parade route, the festivities were strictly civilian, as they have been since 1968.

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A Low-Keyed Peking May Day Celebration

Peking

May Day in the Chinese capital was celebrated yesterday without the appearance of chairman Mao Tse-tung or other members of the government or party to acknowledge the cheers of the people in the vast Tienanmen square.

The festivities were more subdued than in recent years and the theme of dances and plays performed in Peking's parks less militant in tone.

Gone was the strong anti-American sentiment which dominated last October's National Day celebrations and previous May Day festivities.

Reuters