

RISKS ARE NOTED

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Kissinger Discusses Threat to Relations With Russians

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WASHINGTON, May 9—The Nixon Administration acknowledged today that the President's decision to seal off North Vietnam's harbors had caused a serious problem for Soviet policy-makers and endangered the course of Soviet-American relations, but said it still hoped that Mr. Nixon could go ahead with his trip to Moscow, as planned, 13 days from now.

Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, said at a White House news

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conference that the decision announced last night by Mr. Nixon was "very painful and difficult" but had to be made because "no honorable alternative was available."

Risks Recognized

Mr. Nixon and his chief adviser recognized, Mr. Kissinger said, that the action "involves some risks" and poses "short-term difficulties" for Soviet leaders because of the Soviet Union's close ties to North Vietnam and its heavy maritime traffic there.

But after careful analysis, Mr. Kissinger said, the Administration reached the judgment that the action to cut off North Vietnam's supplies "did not involve an unacceptable risk" to the United States.

This was an allusion to the Administration's conclusion that a Soviet-American military showdown was unlikely to develop as a result of the President's decision. But many Administration officials have strong doubts that Moscow will permit the leaders' meeting to proceed as planned. Mr. Kissinger said he thought it would be a day or two before Soviet leaders make a decision.

But he said that "we are proceeding with the summit preparations and we see at this moment no reason from our

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side to postpone the summit meeting."

Senate Democrats, meanwhile, adopted a resolution "disapproving the escalation of the war in Vietnam." The proposal was approved by a vote of 29 to 14 during a three-hour party caucus.

The State Department also sought at its regular news conference to underscore the American desire to maintain Soviet-American relations on an even keel despite the latest crisis. Robert J. McCloskey, the department spokesman, noted that talks on the limitation of strategic arms were held as

usual today in Helsinki, and that other discussions with the Russians were also continuing. The only exception was the talks on maritime affairs, which the Soviet side postponed today in Washington without giving any reason.

Mr. Kissinger seemed less relaxed than usual at the news conference, and at times responded in a defensive tone to questions that he acknowledged could not be answered with certainty.

He stressed, as did Mr. Nixon last night, that the United States wanted better relations with Moscow and "urged the Russians to make the fundamental decision to put ties with the United States ahead of any

gains it might achieve through unrestrained military support of countries such as North Vietnam. He said:

"We recognize that the decisions we have taken present some short-term difficulties to the Soviet leaders; but we also believe that the situation that they permitted to evolve presented massive difficulties for us, and both sides have faced the problem throughout of making some real choices; that is to say, if one wants a genuine improvement in relations, as we do, one cannot also at the same time maximize the pressures all around the periphery."

This was an allusion not only to Soviet support of North Vietnam but also to the use

by India of Soviet military equipment in its attack on East Pakistan last December, which also angered the United States.

"I am not, of course, able to predict what the Soviet reaction will be," he said. "Whatever it will be, I can only affirm that as far as we are concerned, we still believe that a new era in East-West relations is possible, and as far as we are concerned, we will place no obstacles in its way, but, rather, we will pursue it with the same intensity as before."

From the tone and substance of Mr. Kissinger's remarks about the Soviet Union it appeared that a certain ambiguity existed in the Admin-

istration over its policy toward the Russians. On the one hand, he underscored the success of recent negotiations to limit strategic arms and in other areas, which he said could produce "a new relationship of benefit to all of mankind."

But on the other hand, Mr. Kissinger expressed distrust of Soviet motives.

He said that on his secret mission to Moscow from April 20 to 21, he discussed Vietnam at considerable length with Soviet leaders and he said that he underscored Mr. Nixon's deep concern about the North Vietnamese offensive against South Vietnam.

Mr. Kissinger said that he did not discuss the precise ac-

tions planned against North Vietnam with the Soviet leaders because they had not yet been decided upon. But, he added, "I do not believe that there could be any doubt in the minds of the Soviet leaders of the gravity with which we would view an unchecked continuation of a major North Vietnamese offensive and of an attempt by the North Vietnamese to put everything on the military scales."

Mr. Kissinger said, with rancor in his voice, that after he returned from Moscow and the United States—at Soviet urging—had agreed to both private and public talks in Paris with the North Vietnamese,

Hanoi launched three "major onslaughts."

As the news conference was drawing to a close, Mr. Kissinger said that he wanted to stress that the United States did not believe the Russians had "a deliberate plan to inflict a humiliation on the United States" in Vietnam.

"We are saying," he declared, "that any thoughtful national leader, looking at the masses of offensive equipment, might have considered the consequences and, prior to a meeting that had, and still has such high prospects, should ask himself whether it can be in the interest of either party to impose a major setback on the other."

"I ask you to consider what you would think, in the months before a summit meeting, if an American ally, armed with American weapons, attacked a Soviet ally and put into jeopardy the tens of thousands of Soviet troops, whether you would not ask yourself whether we should have exercised some restraint," he said earlier in the conference.

Burglars Get Wrong 'Taxi'

BERLIN (Reuters)—Two burglars phoned for a taxicab from the clothing shop they had just raided. But the phone was switched through to the proprietress, who arranged for the police to answer their request for transport.