

Differences, but summit still cordial

By Kim Willenson
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YALTA — President Nixon and Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev disagreed on a nuclear test ban yesterday and shifted their argument to a sunswept Black Sea villa next door to the site of the historic 1945 Yalta Conference.

Maintaining the chummy style of their "personal relationship" summit in spite of the disagreement, Nixon and Brezhnev signed a 10-year commercial pact during a two-hour conference in Moscow's Kremlin, put aside the test ban issue and flew south to the Soviet Riviera.

Back in Moscow, nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov, a leading Soviet dissident, went on a hunger strike in an effort to draw Nixon's attention to the plight of political prisoners. Sakharov vowed to consume only mineral water.

Nixon aides said they did not know if the President had been informed of the hunger strike. They said there would be no White House comment.

A Soviet spokesman said the two leaders discussed limitation of underground nuclear testing at the morning Kremlin meeting, but could not agree on terms. Instead, they sent the issue back to technical experts for more work.

White House aides said the two would hold almost constant talks on toning down the arms race and on possible European troop reductions as they passed the weekend in the luxurious cliff-top retreat overlooking the sea. Upon arrival, they lunched, resumed their talks, and then separated for dinner and conferences with their aides on today's negotiating agenda.

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler still held out hope for a test-ban agreement before the summit ends, saying, "We have five more days to go."

The successfully concluded commercial pact was the

fourth pre-negotiated agreement signed so far, added to cooperation in energy conservation, housing construction and heart research.

In it, Nixon reaffirmed his commitment to abolish legal discriminations on trade with the Soviet Union without a requirement for free Jewish emigration in return.

Congress has balked at the 1972 agreement Nixon made to give the Russians the so-called "most favored nation" status, without the emigration pledge.

In Washington, officials

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said the president should keep American businessmen from wasting their time while seeking Soviet contracts because the Russians have now agreed to provide more detailed information about their economy, which thus far has been either secret or hard to get.

White House sources said agreement to limit defensive anti-ballistic missile installations had been reached in all but minor detail.

Nixon and Brezhnev flew to the Black Seacoast aboard a blue-and-white Il-yushin-62 jet and walked to a black limousine with their arms around each others' waists, smiling and waving at a crowd of Soviet spectators.

Watched by cordial crowds gathered sometimes five-deep along the winding seacoast road, they motored 50 miles from Simferopol along a rugged, flower-scented coastline to Yalta and Brezhnev's cliff-top villa at Oreanda, a tropical park that is part of Yalta.

Officials estimated 20,000 spectators lined the route and said this was the biggest welcoming crowd Nixon had ever seen in the Soviet Union. Some onlookers perched on fence posts in fields of yellow marigold and mustard blossoms to get a better view. Farmers laid aside their work in rose gardens and orchards.

What they saw was the first American president to visit this Crimean resort since Franklin D. Roosevelt came secretly in 1945 to conclude terms on the postwar division of Europe with Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill.

Brezhnev's villa complex sits right next door to the Livadiya palace where that conference was held and it is the very height of elite opulence, Soviet-style.

Nixon and Brezhnev ate a lunch of caviar and smoked salmon at Brezhnev's white two-story stone villa commanding a view of the sea from a rocky cliff-top. Thick cypress and Acacia forests cling to steep hillsides above the bathing beaches. Thick green lawns hem the villas round. There is an oval swimming pool and a private elevator down the cliff-face to the beach.

Nixon, Secretary of State Kissinger, and other aides occupied an eight-bedroom buff-colored villa near Brezhnev's white one. Mrs. Nixon had a separate cottage. Mrs. Brezhnev was ill and remained in Moscow.

Nixon's advance men had resisted Soviet plans for him to stay in Yalta because it could be taken as an endorsement of the 1945 big three agreements, criticized by some as a Western "sell-out." But Oreanda in fact is part of Yalta.