

9 February 1973

WA Post 9 February 73
**Nixon Sending Colson
To Soviet Trade Talks**

President Nixon is sending Charles W. Colson, his controversial special counsel, to Moscow and Bucharest to hold informal discussions on ways to expand trade and improve facilities for American businessmen.

Colson will leave late this month for Vienna to represent the President at the dedication of an East-West trade center.

The he will go on to the Soviet Union and Romania for talks on trade problems.

The White House said that Colson, whose resignation is expected to take effect in March, will have discussions looking to expanded com-

merce between this country and the two communist countries.

It did not explain why Colson, who has worked mainly on domestic political matters and has been the White House link with a number of private and labor organizations, was chosen for the assignment.

However, Colson worked closely with American maritime unions and was successful in persuading them to agree to load Russian ships and other ships carrying cargo to the Soviet Union.

In Moscow yesterday, the American embassy reported that U.S. sales to the Soviet Union tripled last year.

The embassy said that 1972 figures showed that U.S. exports reached \$546.7 million, up from \$161.7 million in 1971.

A \$1.2 billion Soviet grain purchase in the United States

contributed to the growth of trade. However, deliveries, which began only late in the year, accounted for only \$200 million to \$250 million of the total sales for the year.

The Soviets also boosted their sales to this country from \$57.6 million in 1971 to \$95.4 million in 1972, the embassy said. The figures indicate that the United States last year was the Soviet's fifth largest non-communist trading partner.

Colson is scheduled to join the Washington law firm of Morin, Dickstein, Shapiro and Galligan.