

Kosygin Again Criticizes U.S., Charging Aggression in Laos

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MOSCOW, Feb. 2—Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin said today that the latest developments in Indochina demonstrated that despite repeated statements about peaceful intentions, the United States "still advances along the road of aggression."

At a luncheon for the visiting Syrian Premier, Lieut. Gen. Hafez al-Assad, Mr. Kosygin said that "new reports are arriving today, showing that the South Vietnamese puppets, on orders and with the support of their American masters, are widening their military actions in southern Laos."

It was Mr. Kosygin's second such statement in 24 hours. Yesterday he said "an outrageous invasion" was already under way in Laos.

His remarks were echoed by the Soviet media, which accused the United States-South Vietnamese forces of seeking to extend the war to Laos.

Mr. Kosygin's comments were believed to reflect concern and frustration over the situation not only in Laos but also throughout Indochina. Western diplomats said they believed the Russians were worried about the effect an invasion of southern Laos might have on the North Vietnamese. Moscow was also said to be frustrated by Hanoi's apparent veto of any international conference on Indochina.

China Blamed for Refusal

Moscow is a co-chairman, with Britain, of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina and the Geneva meeting in 1962 on Laos. But because of Hanoi's opposition, Moscow has turned down requests for a new conference on Laos or Indochina.

Soviet diplomats have privately blamed China for Hanoi's refusal to participate. The Russians also acknowledge that the war, now being fought in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, stretches North Vietnam's capacity.

Diplomats believe that, for the moment, Moscow is watching events with caution. Moscow has diplomatic relations with Laos, as it has with the Cambodian Government of Premier Lon Nol, and is interested in keeping its presence in both countries.

No Soviet Commitment

Action in Laos, as in Cambodia, would be different from the United States bombing of North Vietnam, diplomats said. Because Hanoi is a Soviet ally, Moscow is compelled to take steps to come to its defense. But the Russians have no commitments to North Vietnamese actions in Laos or Cambodia other than to avoid taking political actions that might embarrass Hanoi.

Mr. Kosygin said: "It is obvious that despite numerous statements of the United States Government, about quests for ways to achieve a settlement in Indochina, the United States still advances along the road of aggression."

"The peaceful public of the whole world protests angrily against this new American venture," he said.

Following the incursion into Cambodia in May, Moscow also called for world public opinion to condemn the Americans, but did nothing more in a substantive way to help the Communist side.