

Soviet Denounces U.S. Raids on North

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Dec. 28—The Soviet press today sharply stepped up its protests against American bombing of North Vietnam and accused China of maintaining an awkward silence apparently because it did not want to spoil the atmosphere for President Nixon's visit to Peking in February.

Commentaries in Pravda, Izvestia and Tass, the Soviet press agency, accused the Nixon Administration of reneging on the 1968 American commitment to halt all bombing of North Vietnam.

Although Moscow has occasionally made such charges before, it is nearly a year since Soviet propaganda against the Nixon Administration on the Vietnam war has been so voluminous and so forceful.

In a commentary headed "Washington's Perfidy and Pe-

king's Silence," Tass pointedly said that "the latest aggressive acts" against North Vietnam "were undertaken at a moment of 'marked warming' in the relations between Washington and Peking, when the process of their rapprochement has already merged in specific joint manifestations in the international arena."

"Now," Tass went on, "when the whole world resents Washington's perfidy and hypocrisy, Peking propaganda prefers to keep silent, evidently not wishing in any way to darken President Nixon's forthcoming visit to Peking. In this highly significant silence the American 'hawks' cannot but see a single 'green light' for their predatory actions in Indochina."

Pravda, the authoritative Communist party daily, also accused Washington of sabotaging the Paris peace talks by

proposing a delay of three weeks between negotiating sessions.

The Pravda commentary asserted that the latest "mass acts of air piracy" also undercut the Nixon's Administration's assurances of "curtailing" of the air war. It said the latest raids were "perfidious violations of obligations taken by the United States to completely halt the bombing" of North Vietnam.

In October, 1968, the Russians and the French were reported to have helped work out an understanding that led President Johnson to halt the bombing campaign against North Vietnam in return for North Vietnamese assurances of restraint on attacks on three major South Vietnamese cities and acceptance of both the Vietcong and the Saigon regime into the Paris talks.