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# Soviet Reaction Disturbs Nixon

WASHINGTON—President Nixon is directing the Cambodian operation with one eye on Cambodia and the other on the Kremlin. His decision to send U.S. ground forces into Cambodia, he told his Cabinet, was intended as much to establish "credibility" with the Soviets as to knock out the Communist sanctuaries.

He noted that Hanoi had disregarded his warnings and had continued to build up the sanctuaries. He wanted to demonstrate to Moscow as well as Hanoi that he was prepared to back up his warnings with action.

For if he showed weakness in Southeast Asia, he confided to the Cabinet, the Kremlin might conclude that he would be weak, too, in the Middle East. He also felt that "decisive" and "unpredictable" moves would keep the Soviets off balance. The President, therefore, is watching the diplomatic dispatches from Moscow as closely as the battle reports from Cambodia. In their preliminary moves at least, the Soviets haven't reacted at all as he had anticipated. Immediately after the Cambodian action, the President sent word to the Soviets that they should consider carefully their overall relationship with the U.S. before seeking a propaganda advantage from the Cambodian affair.

HE BELIEVED the Kremlin would put Soviet-American cooperation, say insiders, ahead of short-range propaganda benefits. Instead, Premier Alexei Kosygin called a dramatic press conference, his first in five years, to denounce the Cambodian incursion.



The Nixon Administration also dropped sly hints, intended for Kremlin ears, that Russia had as much to gain as the U.S. from blocking the expansion of Chinese influence into Cambodia. It was pointed out that the Chinese had organized the coalition to restore Prince Sihanouk to power; indeed, that Sihanouk's statements were written for him in Peking.

But instead of widening the Chinese-Russian breach, the Cambodian move had precisely the opposite effect. At the personal intervention of Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese and Russians virtually abandoned their feud and joined in a united stand against the U.S.

OLD MAO, who had been under withering Soviet attack before the Cambodian developments, sought out Soviet diplomat V. G. Gankovsky to urge the resumption of Sino-Soviet talks. The chief Soviet negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister V. V. Kuznetsov, immediately returned to Peking.

The White House is now watching anxiously to see whether Soviets will use Cambodia as an excuse to sabotage the SALT talks, which are intended to head off an escalation of the costly strategic arms race. President Nixon, having made a public prediction that a Soviet-American agreement would come out of the talks, is now uneasy about it.

It has been two decades since the late Sen. Joe McCarthy began hounding homosexuals out of government. Now the campaign has apparently been quietly reopened.

During the interim, the government has denied security clearance to homosexuals who might be susceptible to blackmail. This wouldn't affect an announced homosexual who made no secret of his deviation and, therefore, couldn't be blackmailed because of it.

Such a man, Otto Ulrich Jr., has held a secret-level clearance for nearly three years as a translator with the Bionetics Research Laboratories near Washington.

In his application for a clearance, he stated frankly that he was a member of the local chapter of the Mattachine Society, an organization princi-

pally of homosexuals.

Not until last year did the government make an issue of his sex life. He was summoned to a secret hearing at the Pentagon last July and was asked a series of shockingly vulgar questions about his private life.

HE REFUSED to answer them, charging that they had nothing to do with his eligibility. The hearing board, however, accused him of "criminal conduct and sexual perversion." It charged that he is "not reliable or trustworthy."

Pentagon officials admitted that Ulrich was not charged with susceptibility to blackmail and that he has never been arrested. They noted, however, that certain homosexual acts are illegal in a number of states. At the same time, they acknowledged that pre-marital heterosexual behavior, which is also illegal in many states, is not a cause for action.

After the formal charges were brought against him, Ulrich was sent the same set of vulgar, graphic questions that he had refused to answer at the hearing. Again he refused. As a consequence, the Pentagon has suspended his security clearance.

The case is regarded as a precedent for a new crackdown on homosexuals.

THE FLARE UP of fighting in the Middle East caught the Arab military coalition shaken by disagreement and disunity. The worst dissension is found on the so-called eastern front where tensions have erupted between the military forces of Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

The Iraqis, for instance, have accused Syrian authorities of mistreating Iraqi forces stationed in Syria. Arab defense ministers and military chiefs met secretly in Cairo earlier this month to iron out the trouble but wound up more divided than ever.