

Soviet Said to Move Aid For Hanoi Across China

Russians in Peking Assert U.S. Mining Will Not Affect Delivery of Supplies—Chinese Cooperation Is Reported

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By Reuters

PEKING, May 18 — Authoritative Soviet diplomatic sources said today that advanced Soviet rockets and other weapons and equipment were moving across China by rail to help North Vietnam circumvent President Nixon's mining of its ports.

Speaking four days before Mr. Nixon is due to arrive in Moscow for talks, the Soviet sources said the American effort to cut off supplies by sea would not affect Soviet military aid to the North Vietnamese.

At the same time, Western diplomats said Chinese officials had told them that Peking would "put no obstacle in the way" of Soviet and other East European aid to their mutual ally, North Vietnam.

A high-level North Vietnamese delegation led by the Communications Minister, Brig. Phan Trong Tue, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Ly Ban, are in China to coordinate Soviet and Chinese deliveries to Hanoi.

Two railroads from Kunming and Nanking cross from China into North Vietnam, although there are reported to be other, less known, railroad lines and roads from China into North Vietnam.

Soviet assurances that Russian aid to North Vietnam would not be affected by the mining are reported to have come one day after the sudden departure of the Soviet Ambassador, Vasily Tolstikov, for Moscow following what are believed to have been high-level consultations with Chinese officials.

North Vietnamese diplomats here are presenting a picture of only minimal disruption of Hanoi's war effort. They indicate that any adverse efforts will be quickly minimized by the concentration

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of efforts on obtaining supplies by other means.

Although Western diplomats had speculated that the Russians would be unwilling to send advanced weapons such as surface-to-air missiles across China in view of the hitherto less than lukewarm state of Chinese-Soviet relations, the Soviet diplomatic sources indicated that this was not a consideration.

Such weapons were in the past transported across China and are in the process of being sent now, these authoritative sources said. They added that maximum support for North Vietnam was one of the most important planks of Soviet foreign policy and that all North Vietnamese needs would be met.

"We will supply the North Vietnamese Government with anything they need," the sources said.

Soviet ships in the past have mainly carried food and oil to Haiphong, North Vietnam's main port, the sources said, and alternative routes would quickly restore these supplies.

Observers here noted that this would require an extensive logistics effort within China. It is estimated that it would require 10 freight trains to carry a load equivalent to the cargo of one 10,000-ton freighter. And there were 36 such vessels reported in North Vietnamese ports when the mining started last week.

Hanoi is believed to have urged China and the Soviet Union to forget their ideological quarrels and help North

Vietnam meet the new American measures.

There are indications here that the goodwill generated by President Nixon's visit to China in February may have been dissipated somewhat within the inner councils of the Chinese Communist party and Government.

Premier Chou En-lai is believed to have told recent visitors privately that the United States has not lived up to the Shanghai communique, a document signed at the end of President Nixon's eight-day visit.

Traffic Disrupted, U. S. Says

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 18 — Jerry W. Friedheim, the Pentagon spokesman, said today that

Russian diplomats in various cities had been apparently boasting of a continued flow of material to North Vietnam, "and we have nothing new to say about it."

However, he added: "Bridges are down on all the railroad lines, so rail traffic at the very least is disrupted. Obviously, they are not able to get anything in through the ports, and the key points on the railroad system have probably been interdicted even more than they were at the height of the 1968 bombing campaign."

Mr. Friedheim said some bridges that pilots had been unable to hit in the past have been struck, thus making this bombing campaign more effective.

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