

China Bans Russ Hanoi Ships

LONDON — (AP) — China has closed its southern ports to Soviet ships loaded with war supplies for North Vietnam but is still allowing ships from other Communist countries to land supplies for Hanoi, authorities in touch with both Peking and Moscow reported today.

Peking's reason, according to informants putting out the Chinese line, is that the Soviets are unwilling to risk

their new relationship with the United States by challenging President Nixon's mining of North Vietnam's ports.

Moscow's version, as told by diplomats from Soviet bloc countries, is that the Chinese are easing up on their support for the North Vietnamese in favor of a more flexible international policy.

The U.S. mining of North

Vietnam's ports has been condemned by both Peking and Moscow as illegal interference with navigation on the high seas. Informants in touch with the Chinese say Peking considers that Moscow has the obligation to challenge the mining, and the failure to do so implies tacit acceptance.

The Chinese reportedly

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argue that the Soviet Union has the means and the equipment with which to foil the American mining while China does not.

Lack Power

In Peking's view, therefore, Moscow's failure to accept the challenge can only mean that its relationship with Washington is deemed to transcend its responsibility to Hanoi.

The informants say that as Peking sees it, the smaller East European countries lack the power to challenge the Americans, therefore their cargoes for Hanoi are being accepted in Chinese ports.
