

Nixon to Moscow In May

Invitation By Kremlin

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON

President Nixon announced today he will take part in a summit meeting in Moscow in the latter part of May after his China trip because there is a climate now for making some progress on mutual problems.

The announcement was made jointly here and in Moscow.

Any speculation this visit and the one to China were planned to affect each other any way "would be entirely inaccurate," he said.

Real Progress

The summit meeting was set for May, Nixon told a White House news conference, because it was agreed with Soviet leaders that there was a basis for an agenda in which there was a possibility "of making significant progress" by a meeting and by discussions "at the highest level."

Nixon said the objectives of the trip are to move the world a step back from the possibility of war.

"The interests of neither country would be served by war," he said. "If there is a war between the nuclear powers there would be no winners — only losers."

Gromyko's Message

"Now the time has come to negotiate our differences. There is no substitute for negotiations."

Nixon said the official invitation for the Moscow visit was delivered to him by Soviet Foreign Minister Adrei Gromyko who met with the President at the White House two weeks ago.

Nixon said his visits to Moscow and to Peking would be preceded by intensive discussions at lower levels to make sure the summit conference, "will serve a useful purpose."

An announcement carried by Tass in Moscow said:

"The leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States agreed during an exchange of opinions in the course of last year that a meeting would be desirable between

Nixon Planning a Moscow Summit

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them about achievement of sufficient progress in talks at a lower level.

Tass Report

"In the light of the progress made recently in bilateral and multilateral talks involving both sides, agreement was reached that such a meeting is to be held in Moscow in the second half of May 1972.

"The leaders of the Soviet Union and President Nixon will examine all the principal questions with a view to further improving bilateral relations between their countries and strengthening the prospects of universal peace."

Nixon said he expects to meet with Soviet Communist Party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev and also with other Soviet leaders, including Premier Alexsei Kosygin and President Nikolai Podgorny.

Not Ceremonial

Nixon said Secretary of State William Rogers and national security affairs adviser Henry Kissinger would accompany him on the trip.

The President emphasized that he would take along only a "small working group" and that it would in no way be a ceremonial visit.

Nixon said Southeast Asia would be among topics on the agenda and pointed out, "We are proceeding to end American involvement in Vietnam. We trust we will have accomplished that goal or have made significant progress by the time of this meeting."

Nixon said the move to a summit primarily was made possible by the recent agreement with the Soviet Union on Berlin which he said "had historic significance." He said the Berlin agreement "led us to believe now was the time for a summit meeting."

Nixon said the NATO allies and Japan were informed in advance of the planned Moscow summit meeting.