

BREZHNEV VOICES HOPE NIXON VISIT WILL IMPROVE TIES

But, in Wide-Ranging Talk,
He Warns That Ideological
Struggle Will Continue

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Soviet Leader Acknowledges
Growing Political Strength
of Bloc in West Europe

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MOSCOW, March 20—Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, expressed hope today that talks with President Nixon in Moscow in May would help strengthen world peace.

But he asserted that Soviet willingness to improve relations meant no relaxation of the ideological struggle, which in Soviet parlance means curbs on the free flow of ideas and information.

The party chief expressed some disquiet about Mr. Nixon's discussions with the leaders of China last month, although he said it was too early to tell what the results would be.

In a wide-ranging 90-minute speech on domestic and foreign affairs, Mr. Brezhnev also acknowledged the growing importance of West Europe's Common Market as a political force and he expressed concern over opposition in West Germany to ratification of the Moscow-Bonn and Warsaw-Bonn treaties of nonaggression signed in 1970.

Speech Widely Televised

The policy review, before 6,000 delegates assembled in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses for a trade union convention, was televised over the networks of the Soviet Union and its East European allies.

On the domestic front, the party leader called on the Soviet Union's trade unions, which are a virtual arm of the ruling Communist party, to enforce labor discipline in an effort to get some steam behind a sluggish economy.

Evidently concerned over drunkenness and petty crime on workers' days off, Mr. Brezhnev told the labor unionists that the use of one's free time was not a matter of personal choice and that leisure should be spent constructively for the benefit of society.

His remarks on Soviet relations with the United States appeared to set the stage for President Nixon's visit which is scheduled to begin May 22.

Speculation Withheld

The controlled Soviet information media have refrained from speculating on the objectives and possible course of the discussions, evidently waiting for the cue that has now been given.

The Soviet party leader in effect served notice to the United States that the Soviet Union was prepared to enter into some limited accords as long as they did not infringe on its domestic affairs or on its foreign policy commitments.

"We approach the forthcoming

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ing Soviet-American talks from businesslike, realistic positions," Mr. Brezhnev said, adding that Moscow was fully aware that peace or war in the world ultimately depended on relations between the two countries.

"That is why we consider it our duty," the Soviet leader went on, "to find such areas in relations between the U.S.S.R. and the United States that would make it possible, without retreating from the principles of our policy, to establish a certain degree of mutually advantageous cooperation in the interests of the peoples of both countries and the strengthening of universal peace."

In an apparent effort to assure the Soviet Union's allies, Mr. Brezhnev added:

"We have stated before and affirm now that an improvement of relations between the U.S.S.R. and the United States is possible. More than that, it is desirable, but, of course not at the expense of third parties."

Comment on Peking Talks

Commenting on President Nixon's visit to China, the Soviet leader described as "quite natural" the desire of Washington and Peking to establish normal relations. But he said that "little about the content of the talks" had been revealed and that "future actions of the United States and China will be decisive in reflecting the significance of the Peking talks."

Mr. Brezhnev expressed concern that Mr. Nixon and the Chinese leaders might have discussed matters beyond relations between China and the United States, perhaps affecting the Soviet Union.

In support of this view he quoted a passage from a toast made Feb. 26 at a banquet in Shanghai saying that "our two peoples tonight hold the future of the world in their hands." It was President Nixon who made this statement, though Mr. Brezhnev did not name him.

Next Move Up to Chinese

As for Soviet-Chinese relations, Mr. Brezhnev said that the Russians had made specific and constructive proposals on nonaggression, the settlement of border issues and an improvement of relations, and declared that the next move was up to the Chinese.

Leonid F. Ilychev, the chief Russian negotiator, returned to Peking today in a possible move to revive the long-dormant Soviet-Chinese talks.

Mr. Brezhnev told his trade-union audience in a voice of pained regret that the Chinese had informed the Russians that relations between the two countries should be based on principles of peaceful co-existence.

"Well, if the people in Peking are not prepared for more relations with a socialist

state, we are ready to develop Soviet-Chinese relations on that basis, too," the Soviet leader said.

The Soviet ideologists usually view the co-existence principle as applying to nations with different social systems, such as Communism and capitalism, and look to closer relations between Communist countries.

Common Market Appraised

Mr. Brezhnev's acknowledgment of the importance of the Common Market reflected a realization among the Soviet leadership of the economic strength of the market, with the admission of four new members, including Britain.

The party leader indicated that Soviet attitudes toward the West European economic grouping would depend on the way the Common Market viewed the Soviet bloc's own economic alliance, the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance.

On the Moscow-Bonn and Warsaw-Bonn treaties, which affirm existing frontiers in Europe, Mr. Brezhnev said opponents of ratification in West Germany were holding out for a revision of the boundary clauses.

Asserting that the present borders were not a subject for discussion, the Soviet leader said that the opponents of the treaty "do not have and will not have anyone with whom to negotiate a revision of borders."

U.S. Views Talk as 'Moderate'

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 20—Administration officials said today they regarded Mr. Brezhnev's foreign policy remarks as a "moderate" statement of Soviet views that did not appear to raise new elements in United States-Soviet relations.

These officials—both at the White House and at the State Department—seemed neither surprised nor alarmed at Mr. Brezhnev's critical comments about President Nixon's meetings in Peking. They said, however, that they had made only a preliminary assessment of the Moscow speech and that further study was necessary.