

PODGORNY ASSAILS U.S. ON VIETNAM

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Pledges Further Support for Indochina's Reds

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MOSCOW, May 1—President Nikolai V. Podgorny denounced United States policy in Vietnam today and pledged continued support for the Indochinese Communists.

Speaking from the Lenin Mausoleum to tens of thousands of Muscovites assembled in Red Square, Mr. Podgorny said: "On this first of May we affirm our militant solidarity with the courageous patriots of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, who are waging a heroic struggle against United States aggression."

The impact of Mr. Podgorny's words was balanced, however, by publication of a moderate article on Soviet-United States relations looking toward the Meeting between President Nixon and the Kremlin leaders later this month.

Hope for Agreements

The article, in the monthly magazine U.S.A., expressed the hope that concrete agreements on the limitation of strategic arms, on trade and scientific and cultural exchanges would emerge from Mr. Nixon's week-long visit starting May 22, and added:

"There can no be doubt about the objective necessity for the normal development of Soviet-American relations."

The juxtaposition of President Podgorny's speech and the magazine article, written by Vikenty A. Matveyev, a senior commentator for the Government newspaper Izvestia, reflected evident ambiguity in Soviet attitudes on world developments.

Mr. Podgorny's remarks, made during a 15-minute speech before the start of the traditional May Day parade, were evidently intended to affirm Soviet determination to criticize the United States on the Vietnam issue and to continue support for Moscow's allies in Hanoi.

Anti-American Floats

The anti-American theme was reflected in several floats in the parade, which has been entirely civilian for some years. One float showed a figure in Ku Klux Klan garb hanging a Negro against the background of a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty.

The article in U.S.A. magazine, in effect setting the stage for President Nixon's visit, was designed to show that Moscow would not let the developments in Vietnam stand in the way of agreements with Washington on other major issues.

Although the article also deplored the situation in Vietnam in vigorous tones, this criticism was part of a wide range of aspects of Soviet-American relations discussed by Mr. Matveyev.

President Podgorny's pledge of support for Indochina's Communists may have had the aim of assuring the Soviet Union's allies in wake of the recent secret visit to Moscow by Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser. Vietnam is understood to have figured prominently in Mr. Kissinger's talks with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party chief.

Earlier Support Pledged

A public affirmation of the Soviet Union's commitments to its allies was also made while Mr. Kissinger was meeting in Moscow with Mr. Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko.

In a speech commemorating Lenin's birthday on April 21, Fyodor D. Kulakov, a member of Moscow's ruling Politburo, said that any improvement in relations with the United States would not be at the expense of other countries.

U.S.A. magazine, published by the Institute on Study of the U.S.A. of the Academy of Sciences, is presumed to have a more limited impact than a speech by a Kremlin leader from the Lenin Mausoleum.

But the views expressed in the magazine, whose 32,000 copies circulate among academic leaders and policymakers, are known to reflect a significant segment of opinion in the Soviet Establishment.

Mr. Matveyev's review of American-Soviet relations affirmed that the ideological struggle, which the Soviet Union is intent on continuing, need not be an obstacle to an improvement of relations.

He approvingly quoted President Nixon as having said in his foreign policy report Feb. 9 that there might be "concrete agreements on specific problems that cause tension between our two countries" even though "we are ideological adversaries and will remain so."

The commentator also seemed pleased that in contrast to past American Presidential campaigns, when some candidates had opposed the idea of better relations with the Soviet Union, "this year the theme of improving relations with the Socialist countries is being used by all candidates without exception."