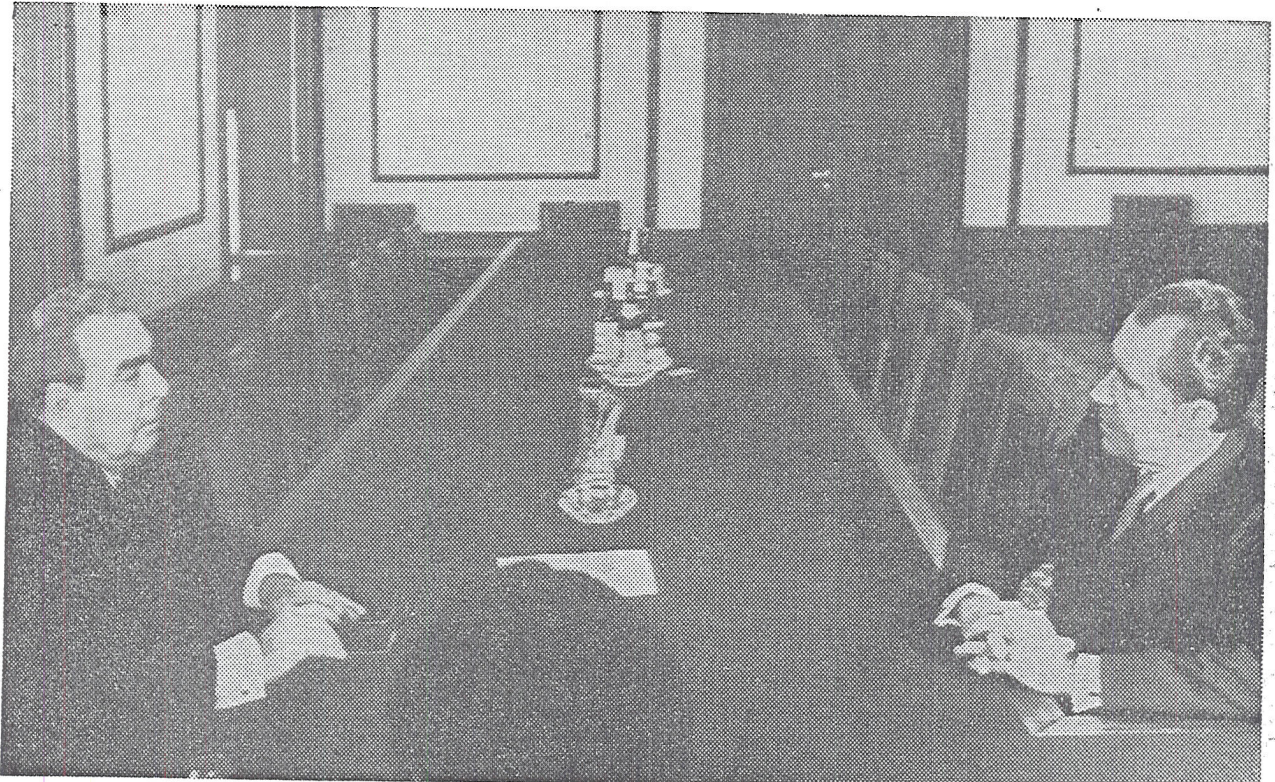


NIXON AND BREZHNEV TALK 2 HOURS SOON AFTER PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL; MOSCOW WELCOME IS RESTRAINED



Associated Press

President Nixon talking with Leonid I. Brezhnev, Communist party leader, through an interpreter, back to camera

Crowds on Nixon Route Kept Subdued

By HEDRICK SMITH
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 22 — Moscow was a city eager for a glimpse of its first visiting American President today, but many of those who ventured forth were dispersed, diverted, discouraged and disappointed.

Along tree-lined Lenin Prospekt from Vnukovo Airport to the Kremlin, gray-uniformed police officers and civilian auxiliaries wearing red armbands prevented most onlookers from approaching within 25 yards of

the street, and moved to head off the more venturesome Russians who tried ruses to get to the curbsides.

The evident intention was to keep the popular welcome subdued and in keeping with the correct but restrained official welcoming ceremonies at the airport.

"It's better to see on TV," a police officer told several hundred people who had gathered at Repin Square, just across the Moscow River from the Kremlin. Earlier, many of them had been dispersed from excel-

lent points of vantage on the Great Stone Bridge crossing the Moscow next to the Kremlin. "Why don't you go home? Why stand here?" the policemen said persistently.

Elsewhere, scores gathered around bus stops, pretending to wait for rides home from work, but lingering for half an hour or more for a view of the Presidential motorcade.

"Anyone not taking a bus, move along," a middle-aged civilian, in a dark suit, com-

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United Press International

President and Mrs. Nixon stroll with President Nikolai V. Podgorny at Vnukovo Airport toward their car for the trip to the Kremlin. At the right is a Secret Service agent.

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manded in authoritative tones. Several times, he passed through a crowd, asking women in cotton dresses, "where are you going?" some giggled after he passed. But only a handful got aboard any of the fleet of buses that came along. For the majority, curiosity proved stronger than the ineffectual efforts at dispersal. The crowd grew as the big moment approached.

But the motorcade whizzed by at such speed that its passing was an anticlimax.

The first advance police car

brought a surge of people from the storefronts to the tree-lined islands along the boulevard. A few women stepped into the street for a better view.

There was a blur of cars. A black Chaika limousine flashed by. A second. Then a bright yellow police car zipped so close to the sidewalk that the front-row women jumped back onto the curb.

Then a flying rank of motorcycles and the first official car, another huge black, high-topped Chaika; then a swarm of identical limousines.

It was a swift, silent, mys-

terious passing. Not a soul waved from the speeding cars. Not a soul waved from the sidewalk, or shouted or cheered. No one claimed to have caught a glimpse of President Nixon, evidently concealed from view in the first black limousine behind the motorcycles, in the company of President Nilolai V. PODGORNÝ AND Prime Minister Aleksei N. Kosygin.

'I Guess They've Gone'

Most people were not even sure which car was the one, they all looked so much alike. The women in the front row

had paused, in excited anticipation, to chat—at the wrong moment. When they looked back at the street moments after the lead cars had passed, a blonde asked her friend, "where is it?" Her friend, realizing what had happened, replied, sadly, "I guess they've already gone." "They came by so fast, I wasn't expecting it," comment a short, balkish gentleman in shirtsleeves. "I'm not sure which car it was. It must have been the first one."

It was a far cry from the first visit to Moscow of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister

of India in June, 1955. Then, in an earlier era of Soviet leadership, the motorcade moved slowly into Moscow and people ran out from the sidewalks throwing flowers of welcome at the visitor's car.

When the French Came

In recent years, the warmest welcomes for visiting Western chiefs of states were those reserved for the French Presidents—Charles de Gaulle, on June, 1966, and his successor, Georges Pompidou, in October, 1970.

At the time of the Pompidou visit, the Soviet Communist

party leader, Leonid Brezhnev, joined President Podgorny and Premier Kosygin for the welcome at the airport. Office workers were given French flags to wave as the motorcade passed.

Today one Muscovite, angry at being pushed back by the police into a park well away from the route of the motorcade, recalled the Pompidou visit. "Why do you push me back?" he protested to a policeman. "What about our waving flags for Pompidou?" Another Muscovite reacted

far differently. "Why all this fuss about Nixon?" he demanded. "For Vietnam, he should be

hanged at the corner lamppost, and you try to put everybody in order."