

DINNER IN KREMLIN

Nixon Urges Powers to Use Influence for Moderation

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.

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MOSCOW, May 22—Richard M. Nixon began his visit to the Soviet Union today, becoming the first American President to travel to Moscow.

After receiving a correct but restrained welcome from the Russian leadership and ordinary citizens, he alluded to Vietnam at a dinner given in his honor, telling his Soviet hosts:

"We should recognize that it is the responsibility of great powers to influence other nations in conflict or crisis to moderate their behavior."

On his arrival, after a rapid motorcade ride past thousands

The texts of Moscow toasts are printed on Page 18.

of silent Soviet citizens who lined both sides of Lenin Prospekt, a major avenue, Mr. Nixon unexpectedly accelerated his diplomatic schedule by meeting for more than two hours with Leonid I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist party and the man he had traveled more than 7,500 miles to see. Mr. Nixon had not been scheduled to meet with Mr. Brezhnev until tomorrow.

World Issues Discussed

American officials would provide no details on the talks, but indicated that the two men discussed "international" issues as well as some of concern only to the two nations—a suggestion that they might have taken up the question of the war in Vietnam, which had been expected to appear on the agenda.

The meeting was further described as "businesslike and frank" by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, and was said to have reflected the importance that both sides attached to the week-long round of discussions.

Later, at the dinner given by the Soviet Government, Mr. Nixon repeated earlier assurances that the United States had come here to negotiate "concrete agreements," and then heard Nikolai V. Podgorny, the Soviet President, offer much the same assurance on behalf of the Soviet Union.

"Summit meetings of the past have been remembered for their 'spirit,'" Mr. Nixon said. "We must strive to make the Moscow summit memorable for its substance."

The President has expressed this sentiment on summit meetings at home, but this was the first time he had addressed himself on the point to the Soviet leadership personally.

For his part, Mr. Podgorny said that the Soviet Union at-

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tached "great importance" to the talks.

"We approach these talks from realistic positions," he said, "and will make every effort in accordance with the principles of our policy to achieve positive results and try to justify the hopes placed in our countries and beyond them, in the Soviet-American summit meeting in Moscow."

Atmosphere a Key

Despite these lofty sentiments, Mr. Nixon's first day in Moscow appeared to be more interesting for the atmosphere it generated than for what has been disclosed concerning the his talks with Mr. Brezhnev.

Perhaps to emphasize the sober spirit in which it was approaching the talks, and almost certainly to show its displeasure over the escalation of the fighting in Vietnam, the Soviet Government gave Mr. Nixon a modest welcome and encouraged its citizens to show no more than polite curiosity as his entourage sped the 19 miles between Vnukovo Airport and the heart of the city.

Mr. Brezhnev was not on hand to greet the President. Instead he was welcomed by Aleksei N. Kosygin, the head

Two-Day Schedule Of Nixons in Soviet

MOSCOW, May 22 (UPI)—Following is a schedule of President and Mrs. Nixon's next two days here:

TODAY

Mrs. Nixon will visit Moscow secondary school in the morning.

11 A.M. (4 A.M. Tuesday, New York time)—President will arrive at St. Catherine's Room, Great Kremlin Palace, for meeting with Soviet leaders.

Mrs. Nixon will ride on the Moscow subway in the afternoon and attend a tea given by Mrs. Brezhnev and Mrs. Podgorny.

TOMORROW

Mrs. Nixon will visit Moscow State University in the morning.

The President's meetings with Soviet leaders will continue.

Mrs. Nixon will visit the GUM department store in the afternoon and the circus in the evening.

of Government, Mr. Podgorny and Andrei A. Gromyko, the Foreign Minister. Russians here interpreted Mr. Brezhnev's absence not as a snub—he was not required to be there under the rules of protocol governing an official visit—but as an indication that the Government wished to extend the usual diplomatic courtesies without paying special tribute to Mr. Nixon.

The move was interpreted by some as an effort by Mr. Brezhnev to give other members of the collective Soviet leadership a prominent public role in the ceremonies surrounding the

visit, to compensate for the fact that he will be conducting most of the important private talks.

In remarks to newsmen in Washington before his departure, Mr. Nixon said that he fully expected Mr. Brezhnev to deliver a substantive speech at tonight's dinner. Thus there was some surprise when Mr. Podgorny delivered the address, although Mr. Brezhnev was present.

A White House spokesman explained that Mr. Nixon had simply assumed that Mr. Brezhnev would deliver a toast, that he had been speaking on the basis of insufficient information, and that the United States attached "no significance" to the fact that the party chief did not speak.

Soviet officials did not attach any significance to what at first appeared to have been a switch or perhaps even a snub, and after his talks with the President, Mr. Brezhnev was seen to be smiling and in an obviously good mood.

Hard Bargaining Ahead

Mr. Nixon expressed confidence during his remarks at dinner that the two superpowers would reach or at least set in motion specific agreements on issues involving the two countries this week. He mentioned the exploration of space, and emphasized arms control and new trade relationships. Both are areas in which United States and Soviet negotiators have been hard at work to insure at least some progress during the Moscow meeting.

But the President also said he foresaw "hard bargaining" in the years ahead to insure that agreements reached by the two countries here would turn out to be merely "points of de-

parture" for a broader easing of tensions around the world.

Restating this theme later in his talk, Mr. Nixon said he hoped that a "positive attitude" on specific bilateral matters would provide "fresh impetus" to the "resolution of other issues in other areas of the world."

The dinner tonight was attended by about 100 American and Soviet dignitaries, who were served caviar and salmon appetizers, bouillon for the second course, fillet of beef for the main course and desserts of ice cream and sweets.

The setting for the dinner was the Hall of Facets, the oldest part of the Great Kremlin Palace and possibly the oldest building in Moscow.



Associated Press

'LONG LIVE LENINISM,' said sign on Lenin Prospekt as motorcade went from airport to Kremlin.