
Nixon on Russian TV -- Unannounced

Moscow

According to the TV schedule published in yesterday morning's Pravda, there would be an "international program" at 3:50 in the afternoon.

At 3:53, without any warning, the Soviet and American flags suddenly appeared on Soviet television screens. A moment later, President Nixon's jet plane came into view and then landed.

Thus began the first public exposure an American president has ever received in the Soviet Union. The full arrival ceremony was broadcast live by Soviet TV, but without advanced warning to viewers.

The Soviet government showed continuing concern for the impression their welcome to Mr. Nixon might make on the public. Those who watched the arrival on TV heard a routine description of the handshaking, interspersed with a commentary, read over the picture by a second voice, with a strong message:

"... The consistent and clear-cut Leninist foreign policy course of our socialist state combines decisive actions against the aggressive endeavors of imperialism with a constructive approach to urgent international problems."

Washington Post Service
