

# BIG GAIN REPORTED IN MOSCOW TALKS

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## Kissinger Is Said to Agree on Settling of Soviet Debt

### —Wider Trade Is Seen

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MOSCOW, Sept. 13 — A well-placed Soviet source reported tonight that Henry Kissinger and the Soviet leadership had made a breakthrough in the deadlocked negotiations over expanding Soviet-American trade.

The Soviet informant reported that agreement had been reached in principle on Moscow's outstanding World War II debt for American Lend-lease with repayment to run 30 years, extending into the 21st century. Precise terms were not disclosed, though the amount was believed to involve about \$500 million.

[In Washington, Administration officials, reporting on another economic accord with an Eastern European country, said the United States had agreed to help Rumania finance an offshore oil drilling venture in the Black Sea. Page 12.]

One Soviet source said that resolution of the Lend-lease issue was expected to pave the way for exchange of trade missions and large credits to the Soviet Union from the American Export-Import Bank.

Soviet sources also expected that the Nixon Administration would make efforts to win Congressional approval for granting most-favored-nation status

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# Major Gain Reported in Talks To Widen U.S.-Soviet Trade

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—or equal tariff treatment—to the Soviet Union to replace the special high tariffs now imposed on Soviet exports to the United States.

As a prerequisite to the kind of American trade concessions that Moscow has been seeking, the Nixon Administration has insisted on settlement of the wartime debts the Soviet Union incurred under the Lend-Lease Act of March, 1941, which authorized loans of arms and supplies to countries fighting the Axis powers before the United States entered the war.

### No American Comment

There was no comment from the American side in the Soviet disclosures. The only official comment from the American side was that Mr. Kissinger had concluded his scheduled three days of talks with Soviet leaders. American officials declined even to say with whom he had met.

There were also no indication whether any arrangements made here might be jeopardized by efforts of Senator Senator A. Ribicoff, Democrat of Connecticut, and others to have Congress take a stand against tariff and trade concessions to Moscow so long as the Soviet Union retains new educational taxes on would-be emigrants, including Jews seeking to go to Israel.

The mounting Congressional feeling on this issue was presumed to have been mentioned in the trade talks, but American officials would not say how it had affected the outcome.

It was understood, however, that, as scheduled, Mr. Kissinger had met with the Communist party leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, and Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin as well as other high officials. Yesterday, a long luncheon was given for him by Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko.

### Occidental to Open Office

As if to emphasize the growing prospects for trade, Tass, the Soviet press agency, reported tonight that the Occidental Petroleum Corporation, had been granted permission to open an office here. Earlier this summer Dr. Armand Hammer, Occidental's chairman, signed a wide-ranging agreement allowing for cooperation in exploitation of Soviet natural gas and oil deposits and combined projects in other fields.

Only one other American industrial concern, Pullman, Inc., has been licensed to open a Moscow office. One of its subsidiaries, Swindell-Dressler, is designing a foundry for the huge truck plant on the Kama River about 550 miles east of here.

Although Mr. Kissinger was understood to have dealt with such other vital issues as Vietnam, European security and talks on reduction of forces the next phase of the strategic arms negotiations, and the situation in the Middle East, there was no information on how those talks had proceeded.

Mr. Kissinger leaves tomorrow for London and later Paris to meet with British and French leaders. In Paris, he is also expected to have another secret negotiating session on the Viet-

nam war with Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese leader who passed through Moscow last weekend.

In the past American officials are understood to have considered that the prospect of a major expansion of trade would be an inducement for Soviet leaders to nudge North Vietnam toward some accommodation on the war. But there was no indication tonight whether the evident progress on the trade issue was linked to progress on Vietnam.

The importance of trade in the current round of talks was emphasized by the participation of Under Secretary of Commerce James T. Lynn. Originally, no high-level trade talks had been expected before October, and Mr. Lynn's arrival with Mr. Kissinger was seen as an indication that the two sides were moving toward a trade agreement more quickly than expected.

The first word of a trade breakthrough came this evening in a dispatch by Victor Louis, Soviet correspondent for the London Evening News, who is widely believed to have connections with Soviet intelligence.

Mr. Louis reported that the Soviet and American negotiators were "on the verge of signing a mammoth trade deal" estimated to be worth several billion dollars a year by 1977. He said that the lend-lease dispute, an obstacle in previous talks, "had been cleared" and that large American credits to Moscow, an exchange of trade missions, and "probable" most-favored-nation status for Moscow were expected.