

Soviet Annoyed by Truce-Signing Delay

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MOSCOW, Nov. 12 — The Soviet Union displayed today its first signs of impatience and concern with delays in the signing of a Vietnam cease-fire agreement while American arms shipments to Saigon are speeded up.

"Emergency deliveries of arms could just put a mine under the still-unsigned agreement on the cease-fire and restoration of peace in Vietnam," the armed forces newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, warned in a long commentary. "The tactics of delay," it added, expose the unsigned agreement to the "threat of failure."

In a similar vein but more mildly, the authoritative Communist party newspaper *Pravda* accused the Pentagon of "intensively building up the military potential of the Saigon regime, orienting it toward 'guerrilla warfare' after the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam."

Neither article mentioned published reports that the North Vietnamese had also

been reinforcing their troops in South Vietnam.

Heretofore the Soviet leadership and news media have limited themselves to expressions of dissatisfaction with Washington's delay and appeals for the Nixon Administration to sign the agreement "as soon as possible" while conveying a sense of understanding of Washington's difficulties with President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon.

Stepped-Up Pressure

Today's commentaries seemed intended to increase the pressure on Washington at a time when reports from Saigon indicate that President Thieu is still balking.

Presumably reflecting greater concern among Soviet military than political circles at the moment, *Krasnaya Zvezda* devoted an extended commentary to criticizing American arms deliveries to Saigon and American bombing of southern portions of North Vietnam as the highest of the war.

"The impression is created that the aggressors are undertaking yet another attempt to break the will and courage of the people of Vietnam so that

later on they can start a new round of exhausting negotiations to try to bargain concessions in favor of the Saigon regime," the commentary declared.

The newspaper said some American newspapers had suggested that the Paris agreement had been put "fundamentally in doubt not only by President Thieu but also apparently by President Nixon himself." Whether there was basis for such predictions would be shown "in the nearest future," it said.

Krasnaya Zvezda said the United States faced a choice between "immediately signing" the agreement or prolonging the war, and it said Moscow would do "all that is required of it" in supporting North Vietnam. The implication seemed to be that Moscow would also resume large arms aid.

The *Pravda* commentary also contained, word for word, the same affirmation of Soviet support for Hanoi but was generally more moderate and briefer than the military analysis. *Pravda's* comments were in a weekly rundown of international events.