

New U.S. Raids on North Are Denounced by Soviet

By THEODORE SHABAD

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Dec. 9—The Soviet Government today denounced the resumption of wide-scale United States air raids over North Vietnam and said it was giving the developing situation its "most serious consideration."

A statement by Tass, the official press agency, said that the Soviet people demanded prompt cessation of the widening attacks and speedy signing of an agreement to end the war.

The Tass statement, the diplomatic weight of which is just short of a formal Government declaration, appeared to cast doubt on President Nixon's avowed desire to seek an early resolution of the war.

Hypocrisy Is Implied

The Tass statement, alluding to the President's decision to resume large-scale air attacks on the North after the peace talks in Paris had stalled, charged:

"This particular decision of Washington flagrantly disagrees with numerous protestations made by United States leaders about their wish to seek mutually acceptable solutions for the remaining unresolved problems."

The tone of the Soviet statement appeared to reflect embarrassment among the Soviet leaders at the latest turn of events in Vietnam.

The new escalation came as Moscow had been expressing interest in expanding trade with the United States in an effort to bolster its troubled economy. The nation's rate of economic growth has been sharply cut back in the wake of a poor harvest this year.

Furthermore, the Soviet leadership is confronted with a worsening of the Vietnam situation after it had clearly indicated a preference for President Nixon over Senator George McGovern, the Democratic candidate, in the November election.

A Pall Over Celebration

The bombing in Vietnam and a new Soviet austerity plan for 1973—with sharp cutbacks in the consumer sector—seemed to cast a shadow over the two-day celebration of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union, beginning Thursday.

Communist delegations from all over the world have been flocking to Moscow to help the Soviet Union mark the event, which is expected to open with a major speech by Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader.

Mr. Brezhnev has a personal stake in improved relations with the United States, not only because he has been a moving force in the relaxation of tensions, but also because he is scheduled to return President Nixon's visit by making a trip to the United States next year.

are continuing in Southeast Asia.

The Tass statement, in assailing the new air attacks on North Vietnam that began yesterday, said:

"The new escalation of military operations by the United States can be regarded only as an attempt to bring pressure to bear on the Vietnamese side to compel it to accept the American terms for a Vietnam settlement."

The latest actions, the agency continued "can only complicate the situation, prolong the bloodshed and make it more difficult to reach an agreement."

"Tass has been authorized to declare" the statement went on, "that the governing circles of the Soviet Union are giving the most serious consideration to the situation."

Nixon's Sincerity Doubted

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 19—The Soviet Ambassador to France, denouncing the renewed bombing, today questioned the sincerity of American peace pledges delivered during President Nixon's visit to Moscow in the spring.

Pyotr A. Abrasimov said at a news conference that "one can ask if the American leaders did not deceive" the Russians on their Vietnam intentions during President Nixon's trip in May.

"I leave it to you to draw conclusions about the sincerity of Washington," the Ambassador said.

The news conference had been scheduled for some time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet Union.

At a reception last night the Ambassador said privately that he still thought a Vietnam settlement would "come before too long." But today Mr. Abrasimov avoided predictions and concentrated on pledging Soviet aid to "the struggling Vietnamese people."

The re-escalation of the bombing, he said, "is not a proof of force but of the weakness of U.S. policy and diplomacy, which will not succeed in forcing the Vietnamese people to their knees and make them accept a settlement convenient to Saigon and Washington."

He was asked whether the Soviet Union might mediate, in view of reports from Washington that the United States was seeking Soviet and Chinese help in pressing Hanoi to accept American terms. He replied:

"Struggling Vietnam does not need any intermediary. There must be direct negotiations in Paris. The role of the U.S.S.R. is only this: On one side, we invite the U.S. to stop their aggression, and on the other we have given, now give, and will always give our support to the struggling Vietnamese."

Later in the day, Xuan Thuy, North Vietnam's representative to the public peace talks here, held a news conference to reply to Henry A. Kissinger's assertion Saturday that Hanoi had imposed additional demands. Although he rejected Mr. Kissinger's view and placed the onus for the delay on Washington, Mr. Thuy eschewed all the harsh epithets in Hanoi's public vocabulary and spoke with surprising moderation. There was speculation that his tone reflected Moscow's hopes for a settlement.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Mr. Brezhnev, after having initially planned his visit for April or May, is now inclined to delay the trip, perhaps until the autumn, to insure that a controversial Soviet-American trade agreement is approved by Congress before his arrival.

The deteriorating situation in Vietnam may give the Soviet leader further reason for postponing his trip. It may behoove Mr. Brezhnev, as an ally of North Vietnam, not to visit the United States while hostilities