

## VIETCONG TO GET AID FROM SOVIET

**Economic Pact Is Signed—  
Moscow Supports Truce**

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MOSCOW, Dec. 21—The Soviet Union today disclosed an agreement to provide a broad range of economic aid to the Communist-led Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

Pravda reported that Moscow would send machines, farm equipment, oil products, fertilizers, metals, medicines, foods and other goods under an agreement signed by Vladimir N. Novikov, a Deputy Premier, and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Foreign Minister of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Reflecting evidence concern over the danger of sharper and more serious hostilities in Vietnam, the Soviet press also quoted Leonid L. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, as reaffirming support for the cease-fire.

Some Western observers saw the moves, in connection with the visit here of Nguyen Huu Tho, leader of the Vietcong's National Liberation Front, as part of a Soviet effort to bolster the fragile peace agreement and increase pressures on Saigon and Washington to move toward a political settlement.

### Behind-Scenes Role

Soviet sources report that Moscow played an important behind-the-scenes role in arranging the meeting yesterday in Paris of Secretary of State Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, who negotiated the cease-fire agreement with Mr. Kissinger.

The Soviet explanation is that both Hanoi and the National Liberation Front were becoming increasingly restive and impatient. The press has lately given increasing attention to the deteriorating military situation, implying the danger or renewed full-scale conflict unless steps were taken to bolster the cease-fire accord.

Mr. Brezhnev and President Nikolai V. Podgorny, both of whom met with Mr. Tho, have used his visit to charge the Saigon Government with obstructing the fulfillment of the Paris accord. Mr. Podgorny implied that Washington might also have been at fault.

On the surface, the aim of the Soviet approach seems to have been to try to appease the North and South Vietnamese Communist leadership both with more active diplomacy and with pledges of economic aid to the Communists in the South.

### Tho Gives Views

At a news conference this morning Mr. Tho rejected suggestions that Indochina had been sacrificed to the interests of accommodation between the Soviet Union and the United States. The improvement of their relations, he said in answer to a question, has not had "any influence on our struggle."

As long as the United States continues "its military interference in South Vietnam and uses the Saigon regime for the purposes of its neocolonial policies," he added, "the situation will remain tense and America's involvement will deepen."

He was alluding to charges by Hanoi and the National Liberation Front that the United States has introduced up to 20,000 military advisers under civilian cover in South Vietnam, in violation of the Paris accord.

The United States has accused North Vietnam of sending 20,000 or more armed troops to the South in violation of the agreement.

For months the Soviet leadership has taken a fairly even-handed public position, asserting that all sides must abide by the accord, but lately the balance has shifted closer to the Hanoi position and has become more critical of Saigon and of Washington, though to a lesser degree.