

ROSS

SOVIET ENDORSES HANOI TRUCE PLEA

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Bids U.S. Stop Shipment of
Arms to South—Response
to Pressure Is Seen

NYTimes

Special to the New York Times

MOSCOW, March 31—The Soviet Union today joined North Vietnam's demand that the United States halt "violations" of the ban in the Vietnam cease-fire agreement on shipments of armaments, munitions and other matériel into South Vietnam.

The Soviet stand, issued in a statement by Tass, the Soviet press agency, was the sharpest attack on the United States on the subject of Vietnam in many months.

The statement, which carries almost the force of a Government pronouncement, endorsed a North Vietnamese diplomatic note sent on March 18 to the parties that participated in the Vietnam peace conference in Paris a year ago.

The North Vietnamese note called for measures to end what it said were American violations of Article 7 of the Paris cease-fire agreement signed in January, 1973—the provision requiring that neither side in South Vietnam accept the introduction of military personnel or war matériel from the outside.

Tass, in its statement, said that persistent tension in South

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Vietnam was a result of "the grossly provocative activities of the Saigon authorities, which, leaning on the support of U. S. imperialist circles, refuse to reckon with the two zones of control, two administrations and two armed forces really existing in South Vietnam."

It added that "any actions leading to the violation and subversion of peace in Vietnam, in whatever form, are resolutely condemned in the Soviet Union."

That Moscow has now spoken out is read here as a response

to North Vietnamese pressure on the Soviet Union. Hanoi has urged stronger Moscow pressure on Washington and Saigon to cut back military operations against Vietcong forces.

Visit by Hanoi's Premier

The North Vietnamese Premier, Pham Van Dong, visited Moscow in the middle of the month and held talks with Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin, shortly before the visit here last week of Secretary of State Kissinger.

But official statements on Mr. Kissinger's talks with the Soviet party leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev, gave no indication that Vietnam was dealt with extensively in their three days of conversations.

Heretofore, the Soviet press has periodically warned of the dangers inherent in the tense and unresolved situation in South Vietnam. But by and large, the Soviet news media have not made much of the

a victory for Communist forces and any detailed explanation of the situation on the ground would involve a discussion of the continued existence of the Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

Other Proposals Backed

The Tass statement also endorsed Vietcong proposals made on March 22 for strict observance of the cease-fire and for progress by the two sides toward negotiations for a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and organizing elections.

Previously, Soviet newspapers had expressed support for these proposals, but not quite so formally. The statement today was taken as an effort to focus new attention on the Vietcong proposals.

The North Vietnamese note on American arms shipments to South Vietnam followed reports from Washington earlier this month that the Nixon Adminis-

tration was preparing to extend about \$2.4-billion in military and economic aid to South Vietnam in the fiscal year beginning July 1—a 65 per cent increase over current appropriations.