

Soviet Seizes on Vietnam Study To Criticize Policies of Nixon

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MOSCOW, June 17—The Soviet Union sought today to turn the publication of parts of the Pentagon papers on the Vietnam war into an attack on the policies of the Nixon Administration.

Press and television devoted an extraordinary amount of attention to the series of articles printed in The New York Times and to the court fight between the paper and the Federal Government.

The overriding theme was that the documents should not be viewed simply as historical but as an indictment of the current Government in Washington as well.

"These documents confirm what the world knew before—the enormous gap between the words and deeds of the American Government," Gennadi Gerasimov, a commentator of Novosti Press Agency said on the main evening television news program.

Most of the Soviet commentaries were written without the writers' having seen the actual editions of The Times. A leading Soviet editor called The Times' bureau to ask to see the newspaper, which his organization does not receive by airmail.

Excerpts Are Published

Pravda and Izvestia published excerpts supplied by Tass, the Soviet press agency, and all papers had commentaries dwelling on the political uproar in the United States.

"The unesasiness that has

gripped official Washington in connection with the new expose shows now fearful the United States Government is of Americans' learning the truth about its criminal aggression against the peoples of Southeast Asia," Pravda said.

Another newspaper, Sovetskaya Rossiya, commented;

"The materials published by The New York Times is only part of the secret documents of the United States Department of Defense, which has been waging an aggressive war in Southeast Asia. Last year's invasion by American-Saigon troops into Cambodia and the treacherous attack against Laos are links in the same criminal chain of American imperialism."

A Soviet intellectual telephoned an American friend to ask "how could they allow The Times to print such stories." Even though the Russian was fairly well informed, he had assumed that on matters of policy, American newspapers, did not oppose the Government.

The Soviet authorities generally assert that there is no freedom of the press in the United States, and the clash between The Times and the Government could cause some ideological problems. But Soviet commentators had an explanation. Genrikh Borvik, Novosti's New York correspondent, in an article in Komsomolskaya Pravda said that the Pentagon documents could be printed because of "contradictions within the ruling circles" of the United States.

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