

He 'Won't Pressure' Nixon on It

Brezhnev on

Moscow

Soviet Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev said last night he is not going to the U.S. with any intention of bringing pressure to bear on President Nixon because of his troubles over the Water-

gate case.

The 66-year-old Communist party general secretary made the statement at a three-hour, 20-minute meeting with 11 American reporters, the first such meeting he has ever held.

"I would regard it as com-

pletely indecent for me to refer to it (Watergate) in this conversation with you, nor will I refer to it in the United States," Brezhnev said.

"It never entered my head whether President Nixon lost any influence as a result

Watergate

of the Watergate case. I am not going to the United States with any intention of bringing any pressure to bear on the President because of the Watergate affair."

WEAKENED

Brezhnev, who goes to the U.S. Monday, made the statement in response to a questioner who noted that concern has been expressed in some quarters in the U.S. that Mr. Nixon's position has been weakened by Watergate and that Brezhnev might try to take advantage of it.

Brezhnev said he has "very great respect" for Mr. Nixon based on the fact the President has taken a "realistic and constructive approach" to improving relations between the two countries.

"I am not going to the United States to bargain with President Nixon," Brezhnev said. "We are going to have negotiations . . . and they will be conducted in the spirit of confidence and in the spirit of improving relations."

DOMESTIC

He called Watergate an "entirely domestic American affair" and said, "What right have I to interfere in any way in that?"

Brezhnev made these other points:

- Controversy over Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration has been "artificially raised" and only Jews whose work is connected with national security are denied permission to leave. He said he could not understand why some persons should want to tie "the whole future of Soviet -



LPI Telephoto

Brezhnev talked with American reporters for 3 1/2 hours, his first such meeting

American relations" to the question of one individual or another who has been denied permission to emigrate.

● His meetings with Mr. Nixon will be of "historic importance" for furthering

a policy based on ending wars, improving Soviet American relations and promoting an atmosphere of mutual confidence and respect.

● The Soviet Union is in-

terested in a truly large-scale economic relationship with the U.S. and he is confident the summit will "give a new impulse to the effort to place Soviet American trade on a stable

and long-term basis."

Brezhnev also went off the record twice in partial response to sensitive questions, but answered each question in great detail.

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