

Watergate Could Cut Short Nixon's Term, Pravda Hints

MOSCOW, Oct. 28 (UPI) — The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda gave its readers their first inkling that the Watergate affair has raised questions of President Nixon's continuing in office today.

In reporting on Mr. Nixon's news conference in Washington Friday, Pravda wrote that a new Watergate prosecutor would be appointed and added: "Nixon said he would continue to fulfill his presidential duties."

Soviet newspapers have not reported demands by members of Congress, labor leaders and others that President Nixon be impeached or resign.

Pravda also hinted for the first time that the U.S. alert of its armed forces last week had been caused by some alleged Soviet action.

The disclosure in the strictly controlled Soviet press followed a government statement yesterday which called the U.S. explanation for the alert "absurd." But the official Tass statement did not say what the explanation was.

Pravda, however, did not link the U.S. alert to a Soviet action in reporting Mr. Nixon's press conference remarks. Instead, it made reference to an earlier news conference by U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

The United States said it acted because of indications that the Soviets might send troops to the Middle East. The Soviet statement stopped short of an outright denial of such plans.

Pravda said that Mr. Nixon tried to justify the U.S. alert by making reference to some "information" that allegedly preconditioned it but that he did not disclose the source of the information.

After denouncing the

alert as harmful to international relaxation of tensions, Pravda added: "It is also indicative that Defense Secretary Schlesinger, who held a press conference before Nixon, had to admit that he had no information about any actions of the Soviet Union which could give reasons for anxiety."

Schlesinger in fact said that all of the Soviet Union's paratroopers had been placed on alert but that no Soviet personnel had as of that time shown up in the Middle East.

(Pravda also accused China of opposing the establishment of peace in the middle east, Agence France-Presse reported from Moscow. Pravda termed China's statements in the U.N. Security Council and its refusal to participate in the voting "provocative maneuvers.")

Chi denounced "the attempts of the United States and the Soviet Union to impose on the Arab peoples a situation of neither war nor peace."

He described the ceasefire agreement as "a further betrayal of the Arab peoples by the Soviet Union."