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**Russian Press, for First Time,
Deals With Impeachment Issue**

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MOSCOW, Nov. 2 — The Soviet Union gave evidence today of serious concern over the position of President Nixon by disclosing in its own press for the first time Congressional resolutions on his impeachment and removal from office.

Throughout the Watergate affair, the Soviet Union had suppressed the news at almost every turn—until the last two weeks. Privately, Soviet officials and well-placed journalists have suggested that it posed no serious threat to Mr. Nixon. The Kremlin, and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, have demonstrated confidence in the President several times when the tide of American events turned against him.

But shortly after the resignation of Vice President Agnew

and Mr. Nixon's dismissal of the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, two weeks ago, the Soviet press began reporting the Watergate events more fully. Western diplomats interpreted this as evidence that a high-level reassessment of Mr. Nixon's position was probably under way.

Today, New Times, the Com-
Continued on Page 13, Column 2

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

unist party's international affairs weekly, went considerably further by reporting the preliminary proceedings on impeachment in the House Judiciary Committee and the fact that such proceedings could lead to Mr. Nixon's removal from office.

"It looks as though they're getting rattled about Nixon and no longer trying to hide it," said one West European specialist, alluding to Mr. Brezhnev's personal stake since May, 1972, in maintaining good ties with Mr. Nixon. "For the first time," a well-connected Asian journalist added, "it has really sunk in how vulnerable he is."

Today's article, coupled with the first signs of Moscow's unhappiness with the White House for postponing Congressional consideration of tariff concessions to the Soviet Union, was a marked contrast with high-level Soviet official opinion earlier this fall.

On Aug. 16, Mikhail P. Mal'yarov, a deputy prosecutor general, was quoted as having told Andrei D. Sakharov, the dissident atomic physicist, that the Watergate affair was "all

calculated to be just a show" and that "all Nixon has to do is show a little firmness and the whole thing will come to nothing." Other highly placed Russians voiced similar views.

Personal Ties a Key

Mr. Brezhnev has made personal relations with Mr. Nixon, along with Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany and the President Pompidou of France a cornerstone of his policy of improved relations with the West. The continuing pressures on Mr. Nixon over Watergate have thus indirectly been seen by Mr. Brezhnev's supporters here as an indirect inconvenience for the Soviet leader as well, especially when he had to defend his policy of accommodation with the West against domestic skeptics. Thus, Watergate news was suppressed in the Soviet Union not only out of courtesy to Mr. Nixon but also to minimize embarrassment to Mr. Brezhnev.

The turn in Soviet press treatment came on Oct. 21, while Secretary of State Kissinger was here negotiating with Mr. Brezhnev on the joint Soviet-American proposal for a cease-fire. On that day Tass, the Soviet press agency, ran a brief, but to-the-point report on the firing of Mr. Cox and the unraveling of the Justice Department hierarchy.

The subsequent Middle East confrontation brought the first Soviet press criticism of Mr. Nixon personally, but not until now has the prospect of Mr. Nixon's removal from office been seriously broached.

Moreover, the Soviet press today simultaneously carried more articles critical of White House policy.

Trade Move Criticized

A commentary in Izvestia, the Government newspaper, indicated Soviet displeasure over the recent White House decision to drop from its trade bill the proposal for relaxing American tariff barriers on Soviet imports into the United States and to postpone efforts

to win Congressional approval on it until later.

The Izvestia article, written by a longtime commentator, Vikenty Matveyev, also showed annoyance over the possible implication in White House comments that action to ease tariffs was inappropriate because of the Middle East crisis.

Through the common technique of citing reactions elsewhere to convey the Soviet position, Izvestia said the Administration had aroused "perplexity" by suggesting it was inappropriate to have a Congressional debate on tariffs given the "delicacy" of the Middle East negotiations under way.

The two matters are unrelated, Izvestia asserted, adding that it would be "unseemly" for Washington to try to use trade concessions for leverage in the Middle East maneuvering. "Foreign commentators are completely right," the Izvestia article said, "when they point out how completely unfounded are the plans, if they have any place in official Washington, for the possibility of the American side's using the issue of foreign trade for any unseemly political goals."