

DETENTE IS UPHELD

On Solzhenitsyn, Nixon Calls Gains in Easing Tensions Vital

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 25— President Nixon, in his first public comment on the Soviet Union's expulsion of Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, said tonight that the United States would continue to improve links with the Soviet Union even though each side might dislike the other's system.

In his first comment on the Solzhenitsyn affair, he said it was essential for both nations to continue to make progress in avoiding confrontations.

Negotiating between the superpowers should go on, he went on, because "it is essential that both nations, superpowers that they are, continue negotiations to limiting arms and reductions of forces in Europe and reduction of arms or certainly limitations of arms."

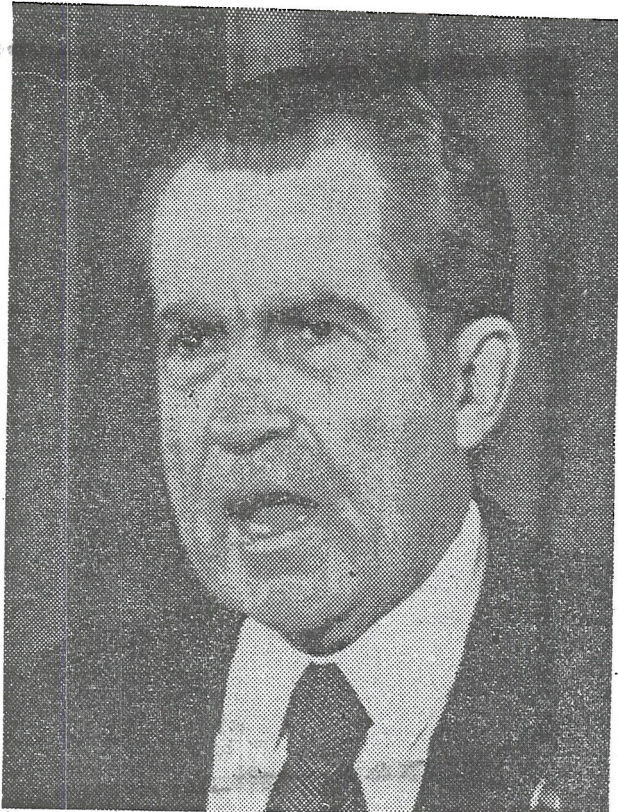
The President said that if breaking relations with the Soviet Union would help Mr. Solzhenitsyn "or thousands of others like him—we might do that."

But, the President quickly added at his news conference that such a move would lead to a return of crises, confrontation and arms races. He said we must "live together or die together."

President Nixon emphasized his belief that the Russians did not like the United States system and the United States did not like theirs and that he and the Communist party General Secretary, Leonid I. Brezhnev, have been frank with each other on this.

In response to another ques-

Continued on Page 22, Column 8



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President Nixon answering questions at the White House

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

tion on foreign affairs, Mr. Nixon also said that if the oil embargo was not lifted, it would slow efforts to achieve peace. He said he hoped that oil-producing countries would "move" on lifting the embargo.

Oil Embargo Discussed

But he then went on to make it clear that as a practical matter those Arab states that wished to see a lifting of the embargo needed to have concrete movement on talks between Israel and Syria before they could persuade other Arab nations to restart the flow of oil.

Mr. Nixon said that the lifting of the embargo was not linked to progress in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.