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**Nixon Leadership Emphasized**

**Soviets Warned**

By Michael Kraft  
Reuter

A group of senators including leaders of both parties yesterday told the Soviet Union not to try to take advantage of President Nixon's domestic political situation during the nuclear arms control talks.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who plans to meet Soviet leaders next week, told the Senate, "We would say to both the Soviet negotiators and the U.S. negotiators that a Russian wheat deal in the field of arms control will not be tolerated."

Kennedy made his statement during a series of Senate floor speeches yesterday expressing support for Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's attempts to work out a new strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviet Union.

Some members of Congress have proposed that Mr. Nixon cancel his proposed June trip to Moscow. They expressed concern that a summit conference at the time the House of Representatives is considering impeachment of the President for the Watergate affair might affect the President's bargaining position.

A letter sent to Kissinger and signed by Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott and several other senators said, "You should make every effort to advise the Soviet Union that it should not miscalculate the determination of the Congress and the American people to achieve

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**Gromyko Meeting**

By Ralph Harris  
Reuter

The White House yesterday insisted that President Nixon was exercising strong international leadership — and would not cancel meetings with heads of foreign governments — despite pressure for his resignation or impeachment.

President Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler rejected the suggestions that the Watergate scandal and the impeachment inquiry in Congress had weakened the President, either at home or abroad.

He emphasized Mr. Nixon's informal summit talks in Paris last weekend when he attended a memorial service for the late French President Georges Pompidou as proof he commanded international respect.

(As if to emphasize the point, it was announced that Mr. Nixon will confer today with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, presumably on the question of new strategic arms limitation talks and the President's planned visit to the Soviet Union this summer.)

(Coincident with this announcement, U.S. sources in General said the U.S. SALT delegation, headed by U. Alexis Johnson, is returning to Washington for consultations.)

Ziegler made his comments in a discussion with reporters of the resolution introduced by Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) that would forbid the President to travel abroad or receive foreign leaders here while the impeachment investigation was going on.

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### SALT, From A1

sound and equitable strategic arms limitations and reduction agreements that contribute to our vital national security interests."

The letter added, "Should these important and hopeful negotiations fail to reach such an agreement, the Congress and the people will take whatever steps are necessary to protect our national security."

Kennedy said in his Senate speech in warning against giving the Soviet Union an advantage in the talks, "We want to emphasize that we stand ready, and we believe the American people stand ready, to support an agreement that reflects the mutual interests of this nation and the Soviet Union in halting the nuclear arms race."

Kennedy, who leaves this weekend for a trip to the Soviet Union, Romania and Yugoslavia, said, "We do not believe that domestic political developments should be permitted to slow down the progress of arriving at such agreements."

Sen. Walter Mondale of

Minnesota, a potential Democratic presidential contender, told the Senate, "We will not be pressured. We will not accept an agreement which is unfair, which fails to take into account the differences in the forces of the two sides, or which can jeopardize our security."

But he added, "It is also clear that we cannot simply call off SALT while we sort out the question of impeachment."

Sen. Charles Mc C. Maithias (R-Md.), said the majority of American people and Congress support efforts to reach

a nuclear arms agreement but "the Soviet Union or any other nation should not make the mistake of believing that this clear and unmistakable national goal is in any way affected by any present domestic difficulties."

Senate sources said the letter was sent to Kissinger and made public after it was discussed with him during his closed-door briefing to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on his recent Moscow trip.

## PRESIDENT, From A1

The White House spokesman declared: "The events of the last year and month show that the President is very much in charge of his job and in control of the government, not only in the domestic area, but also in the foreign policy area."

He said that was reflected not only by the Paris talks, but by a meeting Mr. Nixon held yesterday with Algerian President Houari Boumedienne and the meeting arranged for today with Groznyko.

"We totally reject any suggestion to the contrary," he said. Ziegler's remarks reflected the belief in the White House that foreign leaders still regarded Mr. Nixon's continuation in office as an essential factor in detente with the Soviet Union and moves aimed at bringing about a permanent settlement in the Middle East.

Mr. Nixon—severely criticized in the French press for holding summit talks in Paris at a time of national mourning in France—received another shock when Boumedienne referred yesterday to his visit there.

With reporters listening before the start of their talks in the White House Oval Office, Boumedienne told Mr. Nixon he had read about his "very extensive activities" in France and said "one newspaper even said you organized a festival."

Mr. Nixon was taken aback and appeared to be surprised by his guest's remark.

After a pause, the President made a response that could not be heard and then went on to describe how he had avoided meetings with candidates to succeed Pompidou in the coming French election.

"I had to avoid seeing the French politicians," saying he met Finance Minister Valery Giscard D'Estaing only at a reception and not privately.

Following the meeting, the White House said in a statement that Boumedienne "conveyed views of the non-aligned countries" to Mr. Nixon and that the President "explained the efforts of the United States to help build a structure of peace in the world and a stable economic order. In addition to discussing the relationship between developing and developed countries, the two sides discussed the situation in the Middle East and issues of bilateral interest."

Diplomatic relations between Algeria and the United States have been severed since 1967.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who sat in on the talks, will further explore the Middle East situation today at a meeting with a delegation from Syria.

In other actions yesterday, the President declared West Virginia and Illinois as disaster areas because of the recent tornadoes and he signed into law a supplemental appropriations bill providing \$750 million for benefit payments to Vietnam veterans.