

WXP Post

MAY 24 1974

# President's Trip to Moscow Reaffirmed

By Carroll Kilpatrick  
And Dan Morgan

Washington Post Staff Writers

President Nixon received a "personal, private message" from Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev yesterday as the White House reaffirmed the President's intention to visit Moscow next month despite the impeachment inquiry.

Boris N. Ponomarev,

leader of a Soviet parliamentary delegation that met with Mr. Nixon, delivered the Brezhnev message, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler announced.

Ponomarev and the seven other members of the high-level delegation conferred with the President in the Cabinet room for 45 minutes after which Ponomarev and Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy

F. Dobrynin met with the President for 20 minutes in his office.

Earlier, the President conferred with Chairman Russell B. Long (D-La.) of the Senate Finance Committee and ranking Republican member Wallace F. Bennett (Utah) to urge action on the trade bill.

The President would like to sign the measure before

flying to Moscow at the end of June for his third summit meeting with Brezhnev, but there appears to be little chance the Senate will act that fast.

The President has promised to work for authority to give equal tariff treatment to the Soviet Union, but Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-See PRESIDENT, A19, Col. 1

## PRESIDENT, From A1

Wash.) and other senators oppose any relaxation of trade restrictions unless the Soviet Union removes restrictions on the emigration of Soviet Jews.

The President's meeting with Long and Bennett and with the Soviet parliamentarians came a day after Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.) suggested that the President consider canceling the summit meeting because the Kremlin might "seek undue advantage of a weakened President."

When asked about the Brooke statement, Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon had no thought of canceling the trip and that he would negotiate on the basis "of strong bipartisan support."

Asked if the President did not recognize that he would be leaving the country with a cloud over his head, Warren said a series of votes in the House Wednesday on a military procurement bill showed "bipartisan support of the President and of his peace efforts."

The votes showed that there was "overwhelming" support of the administration's programs for a strong military defense, Warren said.

Warren contended that there was strong support in Congress and in the country for the President's foreign policy.

Although Brooke has urged the President to reconsider the advisability of a trip at this time, other members of Congress have expressed the view "that the President should go and that the President will be dealing from a position of strength," Warren said.

He said he had heard "no discussion whatever" at the White House regarding a possible request that the House Judiciary Committee suspend its impeachment in-

quiry while the President is out of the country.

Moscow's continued interest in keeping up the momentum of cooperation with the United States was evident at a press conference yesterday at which the visiting Soviet officials answered questions of American reporters and foreign correspondents at the Soviet embassy.

Alternate Politburo member Ponomarev said that Moscow "attaches much importance to reinforcing political detente with military detente."

"Since that is the case we must progress along the

road of limiting strategic arms and avoid striving to achieve an advantage in any area," he said in a prepared statement.

He said cooperation between the two countries "exercises a beneficial influence on the entire international situation."

However, he made no effort to gloss over congressional opposition to closer Soviet-American trade relations. He said these were "artificial difficulties of a political character."

"We believe that the Jackson-Vanik amendment leads to unnecessary and wrong obstacles to the development of trade," he said.

The delegation headed by Ponomarev is one of the most important group of Russians ever to come here, except for summit visits. Among the eight delegates are four of the most influential members of the government-controlled media. These are the political editor of the Communist Party paper Pravda, the editor of the government paper Izvestia, the editor of the Writers Union paper Literary Gazette, and the director general of the Soviet news agency Tass.

Members of the delegation were prepared with an-

swers to several questions on controversial subjects.

On Chinese-Soviet relations, Ponomarev said that progress toward a reconciliation "unfortunately progresses extremely slowly, and it's not the fault of the Soviet Union that (talks) are dragging on."

The Soviet official also commented on the election of Helmut Schmidt as the new West German chancellor. He said there was "no reason not to take seriously" Schmidt's declared intention to continue former Chancellor Willy Brandt's "Ostpolitik."





By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

President meets with Boris Ponomarev, leader of a Soviet delegation, and Ambassador Anatoliy F. Dobrynin.