

NIXON STILL PLANS JUNE SOVIET TRIP

Tells Russian Visitors His Preparations Continue

By DAVID BINDER

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WASHINGTON, May 23 — President Nixon told a visiting Soviet group today that his plans were moving ahead for a meeting in Moscow with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Communist party chief, probably at the end of June.

The leader of the eight-member group, Boris N. Ponomarev, brought Mr. Nixon what the White House described as a "personal and private message" from Mr. Brezhnev. A national party secretary, the 69-year-old Mr. Ponomarev is a close associate of Mr. Brezhnev within the inner circle of the Soviet leadership.

Later a White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, told newsmen that Mr. Nixon had "not given any consideration to canceling the trip" because of the threat of impeachment. Mr. Warren said Mr. Nixon would "be dealing from a position of strength" in Moscow because of bipartisan support for his foreign policy.

The visitors, all members of the Supreme Soviet, the national legislature, arrived in Washington on Sunday and have been involved in meetings with members of Congress, who are their official hosts.

Favor the Trade Bill

They have been forcefully favoring the Nixon Administration's trade bill, which would give the Soviet Union the tariff benefits accorded most countries.

The visiting Russians have deplored an amendment submitted by Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, and Representative Charles A. Vanik, Democrat of Ohio.

The Amendment would link the granting of trade benefits to the Soviet Union to free Soviet emigration.

According to Senate and House members, the Soviet group came well prepared. Their presentations on the need for improving trade and their explanations of Soviet emigration policies were so frank and so detailed that some of the attending Senators were bewildered, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee said.

"Some Senators obviously weren't ready for their coming on that strong and telling them what the Soviets thought in their very own committee room," he said. "Add to that the old habits of the Senators walking in and out while the Russians spoke and you get the idea how strange the scene was."

Avoided Pleasantries

At a news conference this afternoon in the Soviet Embassy's mirrored and gilded second-floor hall, Mr. Ponomarev said: "It was our thought that our first contacts with members of the United States Congress should not be reduced to an exchange of pleasantries."

The visitors had supper on Tuesday with Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat. Yesterday Senator Charles H. Percy, the Illinois Republican, had them to breakfast.

"I wanted to be with them with a little more informality," Senator Percy said, "to get what was really on their minds and to impress on them the seriousness of the spirit and intent of the Jackson amendment, the need for continued upward movement in emigration."

He said he had found his Soviet guests "very articulate and intensely interesting."

It was generally agreed on Capitol Hill that the most effective spokesman on the emigration question was Aleksandr B. Chakovsky, the editor of Literaturnaya Gazeta.

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