

Phlebitis Is 'Resolved,' Ziegler Tells Newsmen

From News Dispatches

MOSCOW, July 2—President Nixon's phlebitis has "resolved itself," his spokesman said today, but there is still some swelling in his left leg.

Press secretary Ronald Ziegler said the President was piqued when he learned of news reports saying he was "dragging" the leg Monday during his day-long tour of Minsk and afterward.

"Ask the press how they would feel if they were riding in a car for six hours," Mr. Nixon said, according to Ziegler. The aide said he, too, was stiff from the long rides.

Ziegler made his comments during a press tour of Mr. Nixon's seven-room suite in the Grand Kremlin Palace. The secretary showed reporters how the President puts the leg up on a chair to rest it in his Kremlin apartment.

He said without elaboration that Mr. Nixon's doctors believe that the condition has "resolved itself," even though there still is swelling.

Physicians have recommended that the President get lots of exercise to keep up healthy circulation and cautioned against prolonged sitting without elevating the leg.

Phlebitis, an inflammation of the veins, hampers circulation and can lead to blood clotting. White House doctors said Mr. Nixon began suffering the ailment at the start of his Middle East tour last month.

The President's valet, also

on the tour, revealed that the meals served in the Kremlin suite are tasted and medically approved before they reach Mr. Nixon's plate.

Manolo Sanchez said that he tastes the food, which is approved beforehand by a Soviet doctor on duty in the kitchen. A Russian chef is in charge of the cooking.

The suite is the same that Mr. Nixon stayed in two years ago.

Elsewhere in Moscow, a cast of hundreds awaited Pat Nixon in the central farmers' market here today but wound up with nothing to do after Soviet hosts determined that it would not be convenient for the First Lady to visit that vestige of free enterprise.

American sources said that although the Russians had agreed 10 days ago to Mrs. Nixon's shopping trip, they were never enthusiastic, and their enthusiasm got smaller and smaller as market time approached.

The probable reason for Soviet insistence on scratching the last item of Mrs. Nixon's official schedule was that they didn't want attention focused on the collective farm market system.

Farmers' markets all over the country operate on produce grown by peasants on their private plots. They have been called a living proof that the state agricultural system cannot satisfy consumer demands.

Prices at the farmers' market are determined by supply and demand. Lettuce sells for \$1.18 a pound there and is rarely available in the state stores. Tomatoes were priced at \$2.30 a pound — several times their price in state stores when they appear there.

On the off chance that Mrs. Nixon would insist on going despite official discouragement, the authorities had the normally shabby market painted and sections of its floor retiled.

Regular customers were unable to recognize their customary vendors. In the place of the dark-skinned Uzbeks, Azerbaijanis and Georgians who fly their home-grown fruits, vegetables and flowers in by the suitcase, there were well-scrubbed blonde Russians.