

Richardson, in Moscow, Briefs Russians on Watergate Impact

N 51
7-25-74

MOSCOW, July 24—Elliot L. Richardson, who resigned from the post of Attorney General in October in a dispute related to the Watergate scandal, is telling the Soviet leaders, that, in his view, even if President Nixon is removed from office his policy of détente will be continued by the United States.

Mr. Richardson, who is touring the Soviet Union and meeting with policy-makers, spoke with American reporters today before meeting with Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Richardson said:

"I have attempted to make clear to the Soviets my own views of general current concern: First, that in spite of apparent difficulties, America's constitutional system is fundamentally strong and is, indeed, proving its strength; second, that regardless of a possible transition in American leadership, continuity of support for the principles, initiatives and

emphases of President Nixon's foreign policy is overwhelmingly probable."

Mr. Richardson, who is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Institute on United States Studies of the Academy of Sciences, said he had found Soviet experts concerned about the situation, but also confident that President Nixon's policies in foreign affairs would continue.

Mr. Richardson said he felt the Soviet Union was more likely to evolve toward an open society after détente had reached full fruition. Such matters as more liberal emigration policies, he added, are likely to come about only when the Soviet Union feels more secure in its international position.

Soviet confidence in American intentions can best be developed by such measures as granting Moscow nondiscriminatory trading status without insisting on changes in internal Soviet policies, he said.