

# MOSCOW RELAXES NIXON BLACKOUT

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Reports Impeachment Steps  
and Explains Procedures

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MOSCOW, Aug. 7—The Soviet Government evidently decided today to end a virtual news blackout on the Watergate affair.

The authoritative Government newspaper Izvestia tonight published four articles on the subject, which, taken together, gave Russians their first fairly comprehensive view of the significance of the impeachment proceedings.

The articles stopped short of specifying the exact crimes of which President Nixon was charged, but quoted him as having conceded that he had neglected his duty.

Strong emphasis was given in one of the articles to statements by Secretary of State Kissinger that American foreign policy was bipartisan and "conducted in the national interest and in the interests of world peace."

This and other Soviet articles published during the last week appeared intended to reassure the Soviet public that even if President Nixon was removed from office or retired, relations between East and West would not be plunged back into the cold war.

The first of the Izvestia articles quoted Carl B. Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma and Speaker of the House of Representatives, as having said that House debate on impeachment would begin Aug. 19 and probably finish by Aug. 24. This was the first report published here that impeachment debate was imminent in the House.

#### Emphasis on the Positive

A second article reported the Cabinet meeting at the White House yesterday and emphasized positive comments made to reporters later by participants.

President Nixon was reported as having reiterated his belief that no impeachable offense had been committed. Izvestia said the Cabinet members had assured the President of continuing support.

A third article contained the first reasonably complete account given here so far of the President's acknowledgement two days ago that he had withheld evidence in the Watergate affair and had been derelict in his duty.

Finally, Izvestia devoted a column to a detailed explanation of the impeachment process in the United States, noting that the word impeachment was often erroneously used in the United States as a synonym for removal from office.

President Nixon's name has virtually disappeared from the Soviet press in the last few days, although there are frequent references to "the President of the United States," particularly as a partner in détente with Soviet leaders.