

WXPost

Moscow Foresees

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By Peter Osnos

Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Aug. 9 — The Soviet Union today recorded the resignation of President Nixon by giving clear notice that no change for the worse is expected in Soviet-American relations.

In a commentary entitled, "A Solid and Firm Base," the government newspaper Izvestia said: "Now that Richard Nixon has announced his resignation . . . the leading figures of the United States have declared that the policy of detente and development of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union will be preserved and continued."

"It is hardly necessary to prove," Izvestia said, "that the easing of tensions meets the interests of both sides."

Soviet and American sources agreed privately that the departure of Mr. Nixon should have no discernible short-term effects on the dialogue between the Kremlin and Washington for which the former President has taken so much credit.

"We are prepared to keep up the tempo," one Soviet source said, "although we understand that President Ford will take some time to become fully acquainted with the issues."

Senior Americans predicted that the strategic arms limitations talks (SALT), due to resume in Geneva this month, will go ahead, but not for a month or two. Sources attributed the delay more to continuing disagreements at lower levels of the administration over the U.S. negotiating position than to the political upheavals in Washington.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is tentatively scheduled to visit Moscow in October for talks on SALT, and American officials said there has been in notification that he will not come.

Progress at the virtually stalled conferences on European security and mutual troop reduction is thought by Americans here to de-

pend on broad Soviet aims for those talks rather than the personal role of any American president.

The almost casual way in which the change in Washington is regarded in Moscow reflects the importance of Kissinger, whose continued presence in the Cabinet was prominently noted in all Soviet news reports on Mr. Nixon's resignation. He is seen as the architect of a foreign policy that is bipartisan in nature and for which, in the final analysis, Mr. Nixon was not indispensable.

"There is every ground to draw a conclusion that the changes in the foreign policy of the United States in recent years reflect deepgoing processes," the Izvestia commentary said. "The forces which originated them will continue to act further, independently of inter-party struggle or other events with which the political life of the United States is packed."

Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, went to press last night before Mr. Nixon's resignation speech, but it carried full reports of events leading up to the address on its front page. An inside article entitled "Detente and Maneuvers of Anti-Communism" was harsher in tone than anything that has appeared in the Soviet press in recent days, and some observers said it could possibly be meant as a warning to President Ford not to align himself with the "anti-Sovietists."

A consensus of knowledgeable Soviets, however, was that the article's appearance was coincidental. Its purpose, the Soviets said was "general and theoretical." One Soviet even called the piece "boilerplate."

Izvestia, the main evening newspaper, carried a substantial portion of Mr. Nixon's speech and Vice President Ford's remarks after it. The positive commentary was written by Vikenti Matveyev, the newspaper's leading columnist.

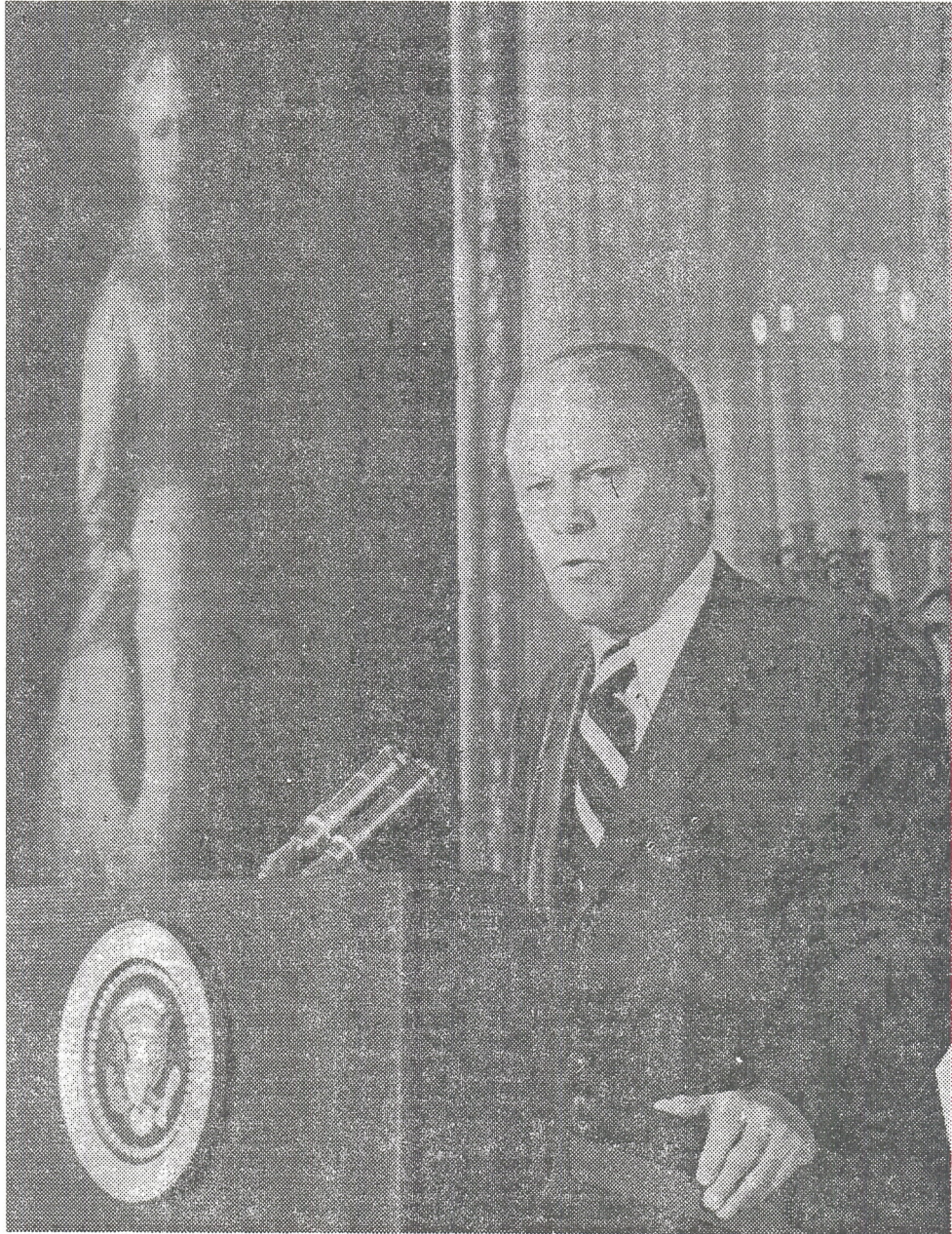
To make his upbeat point even more evident, Izvestia also published a new work by Evgeny Yevtushenko, the 41-year-old Soviet poet, who is well known in the United States from his trips abroad and for his occasional support of Soviet dissidents.

Yevtushenko's poem is called "International Detente" and contains this passage:

. . . I believe no one
has the force
To pour America and Rus-
Again on the icy waters."

At the top levels of Soviet leadership today, there was no air of crisis. Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev is at his vacation home on the Crimea, where he met with Mr.

Continued Detente



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

President Gerald R. Ford: "Our long national nightmare is over."

Nixon in June, and is not expected to return to Moscow ahead of schedule. Some other Soviet leaders are also on vacation, and others went about routine business today, sources said.

The American embassy said that as of late this afternoon no special messages had been passed from Washington to Brezhnev or the others.

It was understood that a warm message of congratu-

lation from the Soviet leadership would be sent to President Ford and published here Saturday.

Nixon-Brezhnev Photos Vanish From Display

MOSCOW, Aug. 9 (AP)—Photographs of a smiling Richard Nixon with Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev during their recent Moscow summit meeting disappeared from a window display along Kalinin-

Prospekt, one of Moscow's main streets, today.

The pictures had been put up shortly after the June 27-July 3 summit and throngs of Russians stopped to look at them daily.

The photos, with a sign "Visit of the U.S. President," were still up this morning; but later in the day they had been replaced by pictures of husky farm-equipment drivers and other strictly Soviet illustrations.