

Russians Denounce Haldeman as Liar

Moscow

The official Soviet press agency Tass yesterday described as "a lie from beginning to end" the assertion by former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman that the Soviet Union had asked the Nixon administration in 1969 to join it in a nuclear attack against China.

"Haldeman's nonsensical statements are a lie from beginning to end and pursue provocative and only provocative aims," Tass said in an unusually quick and categorical response to publication of excerpts from Haldeman's book "The Ends of Power" in the United States.

"In reality, any Soviet proposal of this kind was out of the question as it would run counter to the foreign policy of the USSR," Tass said.

Haldeman's account of the Soviet proposal for a joint nuclear attack was also disputed Thursday by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers and by Henry A. Kissinger, who was Nixon's national security adviser in 1969. Tass, which has had few kind words to say about Kissinger's later policies as secretary of state, said yesterday that he had "resolutely refused these inventions."

New York Times