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TRENDS IN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
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1 OF 1

25 FEB 1970

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TRENDS

in Communist Propaganda

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25 February 1970
(VOL. XXI, NO. 8)

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TOPICS AND EVENTS GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION 16 - 22 FEBRUARY 1970

Moscow (3539 items)

Middle East	(10%)	14%
[TASS Statement	(--)	7%]
[Raid on UAR	(2%)	3%]
Steel Plant		
Criticism of China	(5%)	8%
Soviet Armed Forces	(--)	6%
Day		
Nixon's Foreign	(--)	3%
Policy Statement		
Vietnam	(5.5%)	3%

Peking (2984 items)

Domestic Issues	(48%)	43%
Downing of U.S.	(11%)	4%
Pilotless Plane		
Middle East	(9%)	11%
Vietnam	(5%)	5%
[PLAF Anniversary	(4%)	4%]
Philippine Unrest	(0.4%)	2%
CPR Embassy Protest	(--)	2%
Over Damage to		
Embassy in Kenya		

These statistics are based on the voicecast commentary output of the Moscow and Peking domestic and international radio services. The term "commentary" is used to denote the lengthy item—radio talk, speech, press article or editorial, government or party statement, or diplomatic note. Items of extensive reportage are counted as commentaries.

Figures in parentheses indicate volume of comment during the preceding week.

Topics and events given major attention in terms of volume are not always discussed in the body of the Trends. Some may have been covered in prior issues; in other cases the propaganda content may be routine or of minor significance.

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VIETNAM WEEKLY REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Vietnamese communist comment on President Nixon's foreign policy report sees "nothing new" in its review of U.S. Vietnam policies which, according to Hanoi and the Front, add up to pursuit of Vietnamization in an attempt to impose "neocolonialism" in South Vietnam. Propaganda claims that the report's discussion of America's future world role is indicative of the "stubborn and crafty" nature of the United States in its "weakened and defeated position."

Current Moscow comment on Vietnam focuses on the report's statements on the Vietnam problem. Dealing in stock generalities, Soviet commentators complain that the President reaffirmed the "old policy" of Vietnamization and that despite talk about peace the Administration is in fact spreading the war and blocking progress at the Paris talks. Peking media have not yet mentioned the President's report.

Coverage of the 55th session of the Paris talks on 19 February--as usual confined to VNA and LPA accounts of the session itself--features PRG delegate Mme. Binh's charges of U.S. use of chemicals in South Vietnam and DRV acting delegation head Nguyen Minh Vy's general review, along standard lines, of the main issues. VNA notes that Ambassador Habib did not make a formal statement at the session, but it does not indicate the nature of the lengthy verbal exchange between the delegates.

Other propaganda on allied use of chemicals in South Vietnam includes a statement from the South Vietnam War Crimes Commission, released by the PRG representative at an 18 February press conference in Hanoi. The statement, which publicizes statistics on the alleged use of chemicals since 1961, is followed by a flurry of other statements and comment on the subject.

The departure of the Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Firubin from Hanoi on 21 February is reported by VNA on the 22d. VNA says the delegation was received by DRV Foreign Minister Trinh, but there is no indication of the substance of any talks. On 24 February Moscow briefly reports the departure of the group, which had arrived in Hanoi on the 13th.

Alleged U.S. action against the DRV on 19 and 20 February is condemned by the DRV Foreign Ministry spokesman, according to Hanoi radio on 23 February. The spokesman charges that the United States launched artillery attacks from ships "against many areas belonging to Vinh Giang village, Vinh Linh area" on the 19th and that U.S. planes "intruded" into the airspace of Ha Tinh Province and the Vinh Linh area the following day. No air attacks on the 20th are claimed.

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Vietnamese communist media report scattered military action in the South. A QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial, broadcast by Hanoi on 21 February, focuses on the situation in the delta and on the importance of attacking the allied pacification effort.

Politburo member Le Thanh Nghi has recently attended and addressed a number of conferences held by various DRV production branches to review achievements in 1969 and set forth directions and tasks for 1970. On 17 February Hanoi radio reports that Nghi visited the architectural conference; VNA reports on the 18th that he met with the light industry branch;* on the 19th Hanoi radio reports his attendance at the chemical production branch conference; and on the 22d the radio recounts a communications and transportation branch conference, also attended by Nghi.

An editorial in the January issue of HOC TAP, the party's theoretical journal, concentrates on the importance of the commemoration of North Vietnam's four major anniversaries this year. The editorial lists party building, the improvement of cadres' and party members' knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, party lines and policies, and President Ho's ethics and behavior, as well as the initiation of a production and combat emulation movement as components in the successful celebration of the anniversaries.

PRESIDENT NIXON'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

HANOI AND THE FRONT President Nixon's 18 February foreign policy report is denounced in fairly widespread comment in Vietnamese communist media. The first available Hanoi reaction appears in a domestic broadcast on the 19th, there is further comment in a broadcast on the 20th, and on the 22d commentaries are published in NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN and a VNA commentary is publicized by the press and radio. (The NHAN DAN commentary, noted in the Hanoi radio press review, has not been disseminated by the radio or VNA.)

The first Front comment on the President's report is a brief derisive remark by PRG delegate Mme. Binh at the 19 February Paris session. There is LPA comment on the report on the 22d.

* On 14 February Hanoi radio had briefly reported a conference of the light industry branch and had noted Nghi's presence there. Presumably VNA's report on the 18th discusses the same conference.

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The 19 February Hanoi broadcast charges that the President's report reiterated the "deceitful arguments" put forward by the U.S. side in Paris, accused the DRV-PRG side of lacking goodwill, and "absurdly" said that the United States would adopt a flexible and generous attitude when serious talks begin. According to the broadcast, the report demonstrates that the Administration refuses to seek a negotiated solution and "only wants to score success by means of force." It notes the report's reference to President Thieu's 11 July 1969 election proposals and dismisses them as proposals for elections "organized by the puppets under the cannon muzzle of the puppet and U.S. occupation troops." The Hanoi broadcast on the 20th again attacks the report's statements on Vietnam and goes on to assail the United States' global strategy.

The broadcasts on the 19th and 20th note that the President pointed to the strengthening of the South Vietnamese armed forces and extension of pacification as the main elements of Vietnamization. The VNA commentary on the 22d says the report "magnified the imaginary successes" of the Vietnamization program. And the 22 February QUAN DOI NHAN DAN commentary echoes the earlier broadcasts in saying that the document could not conceal the President's "anxiety" over the Vietnamization program's future when it posed, but did not answer, a number of questions regarding the program's status. "In short," the paper comments, the President "conceded that the Vietnamization program is facing very gloomy prospects."

The LPA commentary of the 22d, much like Hanoi's comment, calls the President's report "merely a rewrite" of the principal 1969 presidential addresses dealing with Vietnam, all of which were "repeatedly rejected by the Vietnamese people." The commentary says the President revealed his "evil colonialist design to firmly cling to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique" in his reassertion that a great nation cannot renege on its pledges.

MOSCOW Dealing in stock generalities, commentaries on the President's foreign policy report complain that the President, while "admitting that the Vietnam war has already divided American society," reaffirmed the "old policy" of Vietnamization. They also assail the report for failing to give a timetable for troop withdrawal. Matveyev in IZVESTIYA on the 20th finds "absolutely nothing new" on Vietnam in the report. Commentators note that despite promises to end the war when the Administration came into office, a year later the war is spreading into Laos and Cambodia and the United States is blocking progress at the Paris talks. Commenting on the statement that pacification will be extended, commentators describe pacification as a program of "terror" and "annihilation."

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Mayevskiy in PRAVDA on 22 February, commenting on responsibility for the continuation of the war, says that the authors of the presidential report are "wasting their ink" when they try to lay responsibility on "the Soviet Union because it is helping the Vietnamese people"--an allusion to the expression of regret, in the section of the report on relations with the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Union bears a heavy responsibility for continuation of the war because it gives the DRV the overwhelming majority of its war materials. Mayevskiy ignores the statement that the Soviet Union has "failed to exert a helpful influence" over the North Vietnamese at Paris.

PARIS TALKS: 19 FEBRUARY SESSION

COMMUNIST SPEECHES

PRG delegate Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh's statement at the 55th session of the Paris talks dealt almost exclusively with the chemical warfare aspect of the "extermination war" allegedly waged by the United States in South Vietnam. Repeating charges made earlier in Vietnamese communist propaganda, she stated that while the Nixon Administration had recently renounced any use of bacteriological weapons and first use of lethal or paralyzing chemicals, American troops were continuously spraying chemicals in South Vietnam in order to "poison the population and destroy the crops." She charged that under the Nixon Administration the United States has "intensified" the use of chemicals and toxic gases in South Vietnam. Over the last eight years, she said, the United States has sprayed toxic chemicals over 43 percent of South Vietnam's arable land and "poisoned" 1,293,000 people, most of them elderly people, women, and children.

Remarking that the U.S. reaction to the Son My incident had been to label it an isolated one, Mme. Binh asked: "Does the chemical warfare that the United States has been conducting in South Vietnam these last few years also constitute an 'isolated case?'" She coupled her routine demand that the United States end its "aggression" in the South with a call for U.S. renunciation of the use of "chemical weapons" and of "any other criminal act to massacre the South Vietnamese people."

The VNA account of the session indicates that acting DRV delegation head Nguyen Minh Vy expressed support for Mme. Binh's statement in remarks made prior to the reading of his formal statement. And the attack on U.S. chemical warfare was sustained on 20 February with the release of a statement by the PRG Paris delegation spokesman--carried by LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY on the 24th--denouncing the State and Defense Departments for reacting in a cursory fashion to Mme. Binh's accusations.

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Reporting the remark in Nguyen Minh Vy's statement that U.S. "aggression" against Vietnam was the immediate cause of the war, the VNA account notes that the remark was responsive to Ambassador Habib's denial of an allegation to this effect at the previous session. (Vy said U.S. aggression is "so obvious an objective reality in Vietnam that it needs to be proved no further.") The account further notes Vy's standard critical portrayal of the Nixon Administration's Vietnam policies, its attitude at the Paris talks, and its domestic policies and practices. In this connection, VNA reports Vy's denunciation of the Administration's "fascist repression" of antiwar leaders at the Chicago conspiracy trial. He points by contrast to the "goodwill and serious attitude" of the DRV and PRG and to the "fair and logical" NFLSV 10-point proposal for a settlement.

Vy picked up Ambassador Habib's remark at the 54th session that the U.S. side was flexible and reasonable, asking rhetorically how flexibly and reasonably the United States is behaving when it is pursuing the Vietnamization program, "encroaching on the security and sovereignty" of the DRV, posing "conditions" for an allied troop withdrawal, maintaining the Saigon "stooge" administration, and downgrading the Paris talks with a view toward "sabotaging" the conference.

ALLIED SPEECHES VNA reports GVN Ambassador Lam as repeating "the ridiculous charge that North Vietnam commits aggression against the South" and as "brazenly" supporting U.S. policy in South Vietnam. Lam claimed, VNA adds, that "the Vietnamese people are committing aggression in Laos, thereby attempting to conceal the aggressive nature of the United States, which is intensifying and expanding its special war in that country."

VNA says that Ambassador Habib "delivered no speech" but "only repeated the old themes and renewed the preposterous demand for mutual withdrawal with a view to evading the fundamental problem--namely, that the United States must withdraw totally, promptly, and unconditionally its troops and the troops of its satellites from South Vietnam." The VNA account thus obscures the nature of the lengthy verbal exchange during which Habib spoke nine times. VNA reports routinely that Mme. Binh and Nguyen Minh Vy, in their additional remarks, "completely rejected all the absurd allegations" of the U.S. and GVN delegates and declared that the responsibility for the Paris deadlock lies with the allied side.

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STATEMENTS ON USE OF CHEMICALS IN THE SOUTH

A flurry of propaganda denouncing alleged allied use of chemical weapons in South Vietnam is highlighted by a statement of the South Vietnam War Crimes Commission, released at an 18 February press conference held by the PRG representative in Hanoi. VNA's report that day on the press conference indicates that the statement contains statistics on the use of chemical weapons in the South and that it charges that Vietnam is being used as a testing ground and the people as guinea pigs. The statement routinely asserts that the Nixon Administration has increased the use of chemical weapons. It recalls the President's 25 November statement on CBW and claims that the tear gas and weed killers excluded from his ban are being used in Vietnam to "massacre" people. Chemical weapons, it alleges, have never before been used on such a large scale or for such a long period as in the Vietnam war.

Other statements on allied use of chemicals include one from the Vietnam Biologists Association, dated 20 February and released by VNA on the 22d, which similarly charges that the extent of the use of chemicals in the Vietnam war is without precedent. This statement alleges that chemicals are being used "in execution of a systematic and large-scale genocide." A statement from the Kien Phong revolutionary committee, dated 10 February and broadcast by the Front radio on the 24th, denounces the allies for intensifying the use of chemical weapons in the province. Also on the 24th, LPA publicizes a "recent" communique of the central Trung Bo NFLSV committee claiming that the allies dumped over 8,000 tons of noxious chemicals on the region during 1969. The communique lists chemical substances frequently used, including mixtures of arsenite and arsenate, and enumerates gases allegedly used against the population in pacification, including CS. The teaching staff and students of Hanoi Polytechnics on 23 February held a meeting which condemned the use of chemical weapons and, according to VNA on the 25th, adopted a resolution demanding that the allies stop using toxic chemicals.

Several of the statements outline the effects of the chemicals on humans, including birth defects and insomnia as well as death. LPA reports on the 24th that the South Vietnam War Crimes Commission has released documents proving the bad effects of the chemicals on child-bearing.

A Hanoi radio commentary on the 24th cites statistics from the South Vietnam War Crimes Commission statement and again charges that the use of chemicals has increased since the Nixon Administration came to power. It recalls President Nixon's 25 November statement on CBW and calls attention to domestic U.S. criticism of continuing use of chemical weapons. The commentary also describes the use of chemical weapons by the allies as genocide.

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SCATTERED ACTION IN THE SOUTH, COMMENT ON PACIFICATION

Vietnamese communist propaganda continues to report scattered military activity throughout the South. The only available comment comes in a 21 February Hanoi broadcast of that day's QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial claiming successful attacks on ARVN marine units in the delta. The editorial says the ARVN units were sent to replace the U.S. 9th Division, which had been "forced" to pull out, and to strengthen forces supporting pacification. ARVN main force divisions and U.S. combat units are also being mobilized to "assume pacification," the editorial says. The paper states that by continually attacking troops supporting pacification, the communists can not only annihilate forces but also create favorable conditions for guerrilla warfare, thus assisting the rural people in rising up against the allies. The armed forces, particularly guerrilla and regional units, are urged to step up combat and force the allies to leave their fortifications, thus exposing themselves to heavier blows.

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S AND INFORMATION/CULTURE GROUP MEETINGS

Liberation Radio on the 14th reports a conference held by the information and cultural section of the central Nam Bo NFLSV committee from 26 January to 3 February. No conference of this sort is known to have been publicized previously. The gathering reviewed work accomplished in 1969 in the ideological and political area, praising the popularizing of Ho's testament. Stress was on determination to consolidate and develop the section, "especially the assault propaganda forces."

The third all-South women's conference was held from 5 to 12 February, according to a Front radio report on the 18th. This conference, attended by more than 100 delegates, reportedly reviewed the 1969 women's movement and discussed their tasks for 1970. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, president of the Liberation Women's Union. (The second conference, held in January 1969, issued its communique on 20 January.)

The communique released by the conference, broadcast by the Front on the 18th, hails women's achievements in 1969 and charges that pacification involves terrorization and "massacre" of women. The communique further accuses the allies of trying to weaken the women's support by holding out the lures of a depraved culture and money and by "subduing them sentimentally." The women's movement developed rapidly where the 1969 conference resolution was disseminated but was weakened in areas where the cadres clung to old work methods and had no confidence in the masses, the communique says. It adds that 1969 successes showed the new capabilities of the women's struggle against Vietnamization. A resolution for 1970 urges the women to mobilize and work using armed and political struggles, to defeat Vietnamization, to annihilate allied forces, and to preserve the revolutionary administration.

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ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY HOANG VAN HOAN

A communique on a DRV National Assembly Standing Committee meeting held 18-19 February, carried by Hanoi radio on the 19th, notes that this "regular" session was presided over by committee vice chairman Hoang Van Hoan. This is the first session of the Standing Committee that Hoan has presided over since 10 June 1969, during the extended absence--from 20 March to 19 July--of its chairman Truong Chinh. Available propaganda offers no explanation for Truong Chinh's current apparent absence.

According to the communique, the Standing Committee discussed its tasks for 1970. It approved a regulation for the application of the marriage and family laws in the Tay Bac Autonomous Region, and it heard a report from the Nationalities Commission of the National Assembly on the situation of nationality activities and the campaign for permanent resettlement and cultivation in the cooperativization of agriculture in the mountainous regions. The committee also approved several ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary appointments, passed on a number of resistance and labor awards, and decided on a number of questions concerning decisions of the people's supreme court.

HOC TAP ON DRV'S FOUR MAJOR ANNIVERSARIES IN 1970

An editorial in the January issue of HOC TAP, the VWP's theoretical journal, concentrates on the importance of the commemoration of North Vietnam's four major anniversaries in 1970: the 40th anniversary of the VWP, 3 February; Lenin's 100th birthday, 22 April; Ho's 80th birthday, 19 May; and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the DRV, 2 September. Calling 1970 an extremely important year because of the anniversaries, the editorial recalls that on 22 April 1969 the Politburo* had pointed out that activities marking the anniversaries must aim at 1) improving the cadres' and party members' knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, of the party's lines and policies, and of President Ho's ethics and behavior; 2) initiating a production and combat emulation movement "in order to transform the spirit of the four great anniversaries into concrete acts"; and 3) consolidating and developing the party.

The editorial says the 1970 anniversaries will be good occasions on which to accelerate the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle and socialist construction. It adds that "we must strive to study" Marxism-Leninism, the party's lines and policies, and Ho's virtues "in order to strengthen solidarity and unanimity with the party and consolidate absolute confidence in the party Central Committee's leadership and in the Vietnamese revolution's inevitable victory."

* The Politburo resolution was not released until 8 July, when it was carried by Hanoi radio.

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The editorial recalls that the Central Committee had decided that 1970 was a good occasion "to consolidate and develop the party" and "absorb into the party a new class of party members called the 'Ho Chi Minh class.'" It urges preparation for and satisfactory implementation of the new party member recruiting phase and emphasizes the importance of training new party members.

HOC TAP points to the importance of carrying out production and combat tasks and of satisfactorily implementing the 1970 state plan. It goes on to note that socialist reforms in the national economy will be continued; and in this connection it points to several continuing problems which must be corrected. It says that in agriculture "we will continue to satisfactorily and correctly implement the agricultural production cooperative statutes and correct deviations and mistakes in the 'three-contract system for peasant families.'" With regard to handicrafts, it urges the people "to overcome such negative manifestations as stealing raw materials and materials from the state . . . and other exploiting forms which have appeared in a number of handicraft cooperatives." And it says "we must continue achieving socialist reform vis-a-vis small trade which has developed again in cities and vis-a-vis bourgeois industrialists and merchants--a number of whom are again practicing illegal business." In 1970, says the editorial, order and security must be firmly maintained, free markets closely managed, and all social vices and illegal business undertakings eliminated.

The editorial also stresses the importance of mobilizing labor for production and improving economic leadership. It claims that "only by successfully mobilizing the socialist labor force will we be able to overcome the present situation in which the number of persons engaging in productive labor is small, labor output is low, and social products are limited." The journal declares that the two tasks--the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle and socialist construction--require everyone to engage in productive labor; it is necessary "to make everyone deeply aware of the present situation and tasks . . . to effect a strong ideological change" so that the 1970 state plan may be implemented and the North's economy improved, making it possible to "fully and promptly satisfy all requirements" of the two main tasks.

SOVIET CRITICISM OF PEKING POLICIES ON VIETNAM

Some Moscow broadcasts in Mandarin currently attack Peking's Vietnam policies. A 20 February commentary on the Sino-U.S. meeting in Warsaw that day recalls that such talks had been held in early 1965 allegedly to discuss the Chinese attitude toward planned U.S. bombing of the DRV, Mao Tse-tung having previously assured the United States that the Chinese would go to war only if Chinese territory were directly attacked. The commentary once again recalls that Peking turned down a Soviet proposal for united action to counter U.S. aggression in Vietnam. A broadcast on the 23d revives charges that Peking profits from selling food supplies in Hong Kong to U.S. forces from Vietnam.

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U.S. "AGGRESSION," BOMBING IN PLAIN OF JARS CONDEMNED

PATHET LAO The NLHX denounces various aspects of alleged U.S. aggression in connection with current fighting in the Plain of Jars area through a barrage of official statements on 20 February. An NLHX Central Committee statement condemns the United States for using B-52's on 17 and 18 February for the "first time to bomb the Xieng Khouang-Plain of Jars region." Decrying this "crazy act of war" which further aggravates the situation in Laos and seriously threatens peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia, the statement routinely calls upon the peace-loving countries of the world, especially the participants in the 1961-62 Geneva conference, to compel the United States to respect the Geneva agreement. The use of B-52's is also condemned in a 20 February message to the Geneva conference cochairmen from Phoumi Vongvichit, NLHX Secretary General and member of the national commission for implementation of the Geneva agreement.

Another NLHX Central Committee statement on the 20th once again deplores the participation of Thai troops in the fighting in Laos, citing an AP report on 28 January as confirmation that there are "about 12,000" Thai troops in Laos. A third Central Committee statement that day denounces alleged "war crimes" against Buddhists in Xieng Khouang Province by the Americans and their "puppets."

An "authorized statement" by the Pathet Lao news agency on 20 February denounces a press conference held by the RLG Information Minister to condemn the North Vietnamese attack on the Plain of Jars and to present DRV prisoners. (Pathet Lao Radio carried the statement on 19 February, saying it was dated the 18th.) The statement "flatly refutes" this "trick" and argues that current attacks launched by the Laotian People's Liberation Army and the Laotian Patriotic Neutralist Armed Forces are aimed at punishing the "U.S. aggressors and their puppets" for their "illegal nibbling attacks." On 17 February a similar VNA statement had refuted the "calumny" of the press conference.

HANOI VNA takes the Nixon Administration to task on 21 February for intensifying the war in Laos by the "new step" of using B-52's as well as other aircraft to bomb Laos to an "unprecedented degree." It also refers to Souvanna Phouma's 19 February statement that "North Vietnam escalates the war in Laos," and the press agency "flatly rejects" his "deceitful claim."

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A QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial carried by VNA on 24 February hails the exploits of the Laotian People's Liberation Army in the Plain of Jars--Xiang Khouang area, noting that the area has been part of the "liberated zone" since before the signing of the 1962 Geneva agreement. It praises the Pathet Lao's victories and warns that the United States and its puppets remain very aggressive and stubborn, are intensifying the use of aircraft, including B-52's, and are ordering Souvanna Phouma to "slander" the DRV with charges it is escalating the war in Laos. The editorial concludes by praising the victories of the Laotians as a "strong encouragement to and a valuable act of coordination with the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression."

On 23 February a Hanoi English broadcast to Southeast Asia cites expressions of concern by Senators Mansfield and Symington over the use of B-52's, saying that these statements expose Souvanna Phouma's allegation regarding the DRV presence as cover for U.S. air escalation.

MOSCOW Routine-level propaganda from Moscow charges the United States with escalating the war in Laos and denounces alleged American efforts to conceal the truth about the U.S. activity. A TASS dispatch on the 19th, for example, takes the State Department to task for refusing to comment on the bombing and for keeping secret the testimony at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Laos. At the same time, TASS notes, the American press is publicizing the 17 and 18 February B-52 strikes. A 22 February broadcast to North America says the United States is developing a "second Vietnam" in Laos, claiming among other things that more than 12,000 "American advisers" are there as well as 1,200 Green Berets. An IZVESTIYA article summarized by TASS on the 23d condemns U.S. efforts to conceal the real scale of its aggression in Laos and predicts further escalation will stem from Washington's "recent decision" to use B-52's against liberated districts. A PRAVDA commentator, according to TASS on the 25th, says the Pentagon's "dangerous" attitude toward defeat in the Plain of Jars is revealed by the fact that in recent days a large part of the U.S. air power based in Thailand and in the Seventh Fleet was used in Laos, the U.S. Command even deciding to "weaken temporarily" the bombings of South Vietnam.

PEKING NCNA reports the NLHX Central Committee statement denouncing the use of B-52's as well as a number of reports attributed to Pathet Lao media on the fighting in the Plain of Jars, but Peking is not known to have commented on its own authority.

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PRC AND NORTH KOREA

NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR BACK IN PEKING

Chou En-lai received the DPRK Ambassador for a "cordial and friendly talk" on 17 February, according to NCNA that day, and the Pyongyang KCNA reports on the 19th that the meeting took place in a "friendly atmosphere." Shortly thereafter, TASS reports on 23 February that Kosygin received the DPRK Ambassador in Moscow for a "friendly" meeting.

The reports of the meeting in Peking provide the first available indication of the ambassador's presence in the PRC capital in more than two years. Accredited in June 1967, he was last reported in Peking in September 1967 when he hosted a reception marking DPRK National Day. The new sign of further normalization of Sino-Korean relations follows reports some weeks ago of the signing of a new agreement on navigation on the Yalu and Tumen Rivers.* Since then, Pyongyang has been giving the PRC some atypical routine-level propaganda support:

+ A MINJU CHOSON article carried by KCNA on 5 February denounced a U.S. "scheme" to perpetuate the occupation of Taiwan, "an inseparable part of the territory of the PRC," and decried this "grave hostile act against People's China." A similar charge was made in a NODONG SINMUN commentary carried by KCNA the same day scoring Japanese support for alleged U.S. aggressive plans in Asia.

+ A MINJU CHOSON article also carried by KCNA on the 5th, denouncing President Nixon's 30 January press conference, remarked that he spoke "balderdash about 'countering nuclear attack' from People's China," thus showing that he was resorting to schemes of "nuclear blackmail."

+ On 7 and 12 February KCNA gave unusual replay to Peking comment, reporting an NCNA commentary on the State of the Union address and a PEOPLE'S DAILY article denouncing Japanese militarism.

Korean Army Day on 8 February, however, got standard propaganda treatment from Peking. In the pattern of last year, Peking publicized only an NCNA report of a reception and film show by the DPRK military attache. The report noted that in toasts the DPRK attache and the PRC deputy defense minister praised the "militant friendship cemented in blood" of the two peoples and armies. Although this formulation has not appeared in Peking propaganda on DPRK Army Day for some years, it has appeared sporadically in reports on other North Korean anniversaries,

* See the 4 February 1970 FBIS TRENDS, page 28, for a discussion of this agreement and background on Sino-Korean relations.

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most recently on 25 October 1969 in an NCNA report of the DPRK charge d'affaires' banquet marking the anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers' entry into the Korean War. Peking has not publicized a greetings message to the North Koreans on Army Day, although a 21 February NCNA roundup of messages received does note that one was received from the PRC Ministry of Defense. This treatment accords with that of last year.

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MIDDLE EAST

PROTEST MEETINGS IN USSR CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR ABU ZABAL RAID

Moscow continues to extol the recent Soviet "initiatives" toward a Middle East settlement--the Kosygin letters to the United States, Britain, and France, revealed on 12 February, and the 16 February TASS statement pegged to Israel's bombing of a UAR metal plant on the 12th. The Abu Zabal raid is the focus of comment assailing Israel for its deep raids into Arab territory and its treatment of the Arab population in the occupied territories. Following the TASS statement, Moscow on the 20th began to mount a campaign of protest meetings throughout the USSR condemning the Abu Zabal raid and supporting Soviet policy in the Middle East. The ground was prepared for the protest campaign, still being publicized on the 25th, with a flurry of statements by various Soviet public organizations and messages to their UAR counterparts expressing indignation over Abu Zabal. At the same time, comment on the raid rejects Israeli explanations of pilot error. A KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA article by Agaryshev on the 21st recalls that Nasir has said that if Israel has decided to bomb civilian enterprises, "not only Egyptian plants will be attacked."

Current Moscow propaganda is largely devoid of comment on the U.S. and Soviet proposals for a settlement or of references to the Big Four talks. There is still reiteration of the need for a political settlement, which Israel is accused of thwarting. The November 1967 Security Council resolution continues to be cited as the basis for a settlement, and there is the usual insistence on Israeli withdrawal.

IZVESTIYA on the 21st, along with other comment, construes U.S. policy in the Middle East as an extension of "Vietnamization," with Israel, using American weapons, attempting to attain U.S. aims in the region. Having long argued that the United States seeks the downfall of all "progressive" Arab governments, Moscow plays up President Nasir's charge, in recent interviews, that the Americans have tried for years to overthrow the Egyptian regime. Soviet commentators maintain that this effort will prove unsuccessful. TRUD on the 24th, acknowledging "temporary successes" by the Israeli "aggressors," echoes the language of the Kosygin notes in declaring Soviet determination to frustrate imperialist adventures in the Middle East.

Abba Eban's visit to the FRG--the first by an Israeli foreign minister--is the peg for a recounting of Bonn's past and present support for Israel and is seen by Moscow as evidence of further cooperation, despite FRG "talk about the desire to restore links" with the Arabs.

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SWISSAIR CRASH Moscow comes to the defense of Palestinian resistance organizations, which have denied responsibility for the 21 January crash of an Israel-bound Swissair plane near Zurich and for the explosion aboard an Austrian airliner on the same day.* Previous incidents involving El Al planes, for which responsibility was claimed by Palestinian fedayeen groups, were virtually ignored by Moscow. Implying its disapproval of such actions, Moscow briefly reported but gave no further attention to the hijacking of an El Al plane to Algeria in July 1968, and it acknowledged but obscured the details of the December 1968 attack in Athens and the February 1969 incident in Zurich. The subsequent hijacking of a TWA airliner to Damascus and incidents involving El Al offices abroad apparently got no Soviet propaganda attention.

In Moscow's first reaction to the new incidents, TASS commentator Velichanskiy says on the 23d that Washington and Tel Aviv immediately attributed the crash to sabotage by Arab guerrillas, seizing on "a false communique hurriedly concocted which allegedly came from some Palestinian organization." Noting the Palestinian denial, he says the "yells" of Israeli and Western "propaganda" were aimed at distracting attention from the Abu Zabal raid, justifying in advance announcements of new U.S. arms deliveries to Israel, and "compromising the heroic struggle of Arab guerrillas" on "occupied Arab territory"--a qualification Moscow has always been careful to insert when supporting partisan operations.

Subsequent comment sustains the line that the outcry is intended merely to cover up Israeli and imperialist "crimes" in the Middle East, and Moscow stresses Palestinian and Arab denials of involvement. A Shakhov foreign-language commentary on the 24th asserts that Western propaganda uses one set of criteria when "it is a matter of crimes in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia" but resorts to "every kind of slander and fabrication" when it is a matter of people's struggles for liberation.

Dealing with Israeli Foreign Minister Eban's visit to West Germany, a Moscow commentary broadcast in German on the 24th says the visit is taking place in an atmosphere of "premeditated hysteria and unrestrained propaganda" against the Arabs and cites "agitational" news about the "recent fire in Munich" and the Swissair crash. These and other incidents are linked with partisan activity, the commentary says, although the West German police admit there is no evidence to prove this.

* An initial claim of responsibility for the crash by a fedayeen splinter group was reported on the 21st by REUTERS and Baghdad radio and disavowed the next day, and a spokesman of the fedayeen's new Unified Command on the 23d deplored the explosions on both planes and denied any responsibility by the Command's member organizations.

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PALESTINIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO USSR GETS LITTLE PUBLICITY

Moscow is uninformative in its minimal attention to the 10-20 February visit to the USSR by a Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) delegation led by its chairman, Yasir Arafat, at the invitation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. A communique released by TASS on the 20th and published in PRAVDA on the 21st says the group visited Moscow, Leningrad, Volgograd, and Tashkent, and held talks in Moscow with the host organization on questions of mutual interest, "including cooperation in the joint struggle for liquidation of the consequences of the imperialist aggression by Israel and in defense of the lawful rights* and interests of the Arab people of Palestine." The PLO delegation, it says, told of the people's resistance in the occupied territories and expressed gratitude for the Soviet people's support.

The communique stresses the people-to-people aspect of the visit, with no suggestion of any contacts by the delegation with Soviet Government officials. The delegation thanks the Soviet people for their support, it says, and the Soviet host committee emphasized the Soviet people's support for the Arab peoples "against the Israeli aggressors and their imperialist patrons in support of the national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle of the Palestinian Arab people." A subsequent commentary in Arabic on the 23d follows the lines of the communique, again emphasizing the "people's" friendship in citing Arab reaction to the visit.

During the visit an Arabic-language commentary on 12 February said the struggle of the Palestinian fedayeen "has enjoyed the recognition and support of all progressive mankind." The Arab press, it noted, has pointed out that the visit aims at strengthening contacts between the Soviet and Palestinian Arab peoples. The Arab papers are correct, it added, in saying that Arafat's visit is a "logical result of Soviet policy which aims at backing national liberation movements." It explained that the basis of the attitude of the Soviet Government and people toward the Palestinian patriots' struggle "is not prompted by temporary considerations necessitated by any specific circumstances," but by "firm principles," and it went on to recall Kosygin's statement of support for the Palestinian organizations' struggle in a 10 December speech. Kosygin, however, had added a qualification to his statement which the commentary seems at pains to deny: "In conditions of the

* Arafat was reported by the Beirut AL-MUHARRIR to have remarked on his return to Beirut that the Soviet attitude toward the Palestine issue "has changed greatly," and that the USSR "now recognizes our people's national rights" in Palestine. AL-MUHARRIR says this is an "important step," since the Soviets had been using the expression "legitimate rights."

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continuing Israeli aggression," he had said, the Soviet people regard the struggle of Palestinian organizations for the liquidation of the aftermaths of the aggression as a just national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle and support it.

ARAFAT COMMENTS The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) on the 20th says that a Voice of Palestine radio correspondent accompanying the delegation reported that the group held several meetings with "senior Soviet figures," and that Arafat met with the chief editors of PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA and with TASS and Soviet TV officials. Reporting Arafat's arrival in Beirut from Moscow on the 20th, MENA says that Arafat expressed great satisfaction with the results of the visit, "where he was given head-of-state treatment," and said his talks with "Soviet officials and trade union representatives were very beneficial." Asked whether the USSR had decided to extend aid to the fedayeen operations, MENA says Arafat replied that no such agreement was reached "but we hope to receive such aid."

At a press conference in Amman on the 24th, reported by MENA's Damascus office, Arafat said the visit to the USSR "was supposed to have taken place four months ago," before the Arab summit conference in Rabat. The coming days, he added, "will show the great reaction to and the important outcome of this visit." TASS briefly reports the press conference, citing Arafat as saying the delegation was warmly received and that the Soviet people support the "national liberation, anti-imperialist struggle of the Palestine Arab people."

The Syrian news agency reports on the 24th that a Fatah source announced that a French CP delegation would be arriving in Amman shortly to continue discussions begun during a Fatah delegation's visit to France 4-10 February. The Fatah delegation attended the French CP congress, the report adds, and also held talks with representatives of the NFUSV, the DRV, the USSR, and other countries "which helped strengthen the Palestine revolution's international relations."

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SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

MOSCOW HITS CHINESE ON WARSAW TALKS; PEKING RESTRAINED

While Peking devotes only one item to anti-Soviet themes, a 21 February NCNA report on Czechoslovak-Soviet relations, Moscow accuses the Chinese of seeking to put pressure on the Soviets at the current Peking negotiations through dual policies of propagating anti-Sovietism and war psychosis at home while talking with the United States in Warsaw. Moscow charges in a Mandarin broadcast on 19 February that the Chinese leaders' militaristic domestic policies are aimed at "applying pressure to the Soviet Union in order to win the upper hand at the Soviet-Chinese talks in Peking" and suggests that the holding of talks in Warsaw is intended "to intimidate the Soviet Union by presenting a possibility of collusion with the U.S. imperialists." The current issue of the Soviet weekly LIFE ABROAD, according to the Belgrade TANYUG on the 22d, directly links the Warsaw talks with an intensification of Chinese hostility toward the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

Soviet media for the first time point to Chinese initiative for the resumption of the Warsaw talks. For example, a 21 February commentary in French over Moscow's purportedly unofficial Radio Peace and Progress states that "it is the Chinese side which specially insisted on holding this meeting as quickly as possible."

After totally ignoring the 14 February anniversary of the 1950 Sino-Soviet treaty of alliance for the fourth successive year, Moscow uses the 36th and 37th installments--on 20 and 22 February--of the continuing Radio Moscow series in Mandarin on "Glorious Chapters in the History of Soviet-Chinese Relations" to discuss the significance of the treaty. But the commentaries begged the question of the treaty's current status by restricting the discussion to the period of the early 1950's.

In Moscow's continuing portrayal of dissension at all levels of the CCP in the course of efforts to rehabilitate the party organizations, a 23 February TASS report on public show trials in Peking places Mao and Chou En-lai in the same camp by citing slogans and wall posters defending them against "ultraleftists," class enemies, and counterrevolutionaries. Mention of Lin Piao is notably absent. There had been occasional indications in the past that the Soviets regarded Chou more favorably than the other PRC leaders.

Of the Soviet materials on Armed Forces Day, an article by Marshal Yakubovskiy in SOVIET RUSSIA on 22 February brings up the situation in the PRC after a review of the "imperialist" threat and before a passage on the need to strengthen the USSR's defense might. Yakubovskiy takes note of the "war psychosis" in China and the Peking leadership's proposal that the Chinese people "prepare themselves 'in the event of hunger and war.'"

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SINO-U.S. RELATIONS

PEKING REPORTS WARSAW SESSION, CONTINUES RESTRAINED ATTACKS

Following the pattern set in January, Peking issued a brief, noncommittal statement after the 20 February session of the Warsaw Talks, stating only that the meeting had been held and that the next one would be scheduled by mutual agreement. Anti-U.S. polemics are still being aired, though with some elements of restraint. There has been no Peking comment so far on the President's State of the World message; and while attacks on the State of the Union message continue, PRC media still avoid mention of the President's remarks about China.

The most pointed anti-U.S. statements to appear in PRC media during the past week are contained in scattered references to the downing of a U.S. drone over PRC territory on 10 February. A broadcast to Taiwan on the 22d charges, for example, that the "Nixon government" has stepped up the tactic of talking of peace while "continuing to carry out military threats and war provocations." Concern over Japan's potential as a major threat to the PRC is evinced in a 23 February NCNA article which also brings in the USSR and the "Taiwan independence movement" as parts of a U.S.-instigated plot to pave the way for Japanese reannexation of Taiwan.

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STRATEGIC WEAPONS

ARMED FORCES DAY ARTICLES MENTION SOVIET ABM CAPABILITY

Articles by Defense Minister Grechko and Chief of the General Staff Zakharov marking the 52d anniversary of the Soviet armed forces (23 February) break a two-year pattern of reticence on the question of Soviet ABM capability. Grechko's article, appearing in PRAVDA on the 23d, says that great changes have taken place in the troops of the USSR's air defense and that "the combat means we possess are capable of reliably striking both enemy aircraft and missiles, regardless of their altitude and velocity, at great distances from the defended targets." In IZVESTIYA on 22 February, Marshal Zakharov says that the air defense forces have the latest means for insuring the reliable destruction of "any aircraft and many rockets" of the enemy. This formulation, introduced by the then Defense Minister Malinovskiy in April 1966, was repeated in substance by key spokesmen through early 1968 and appeared in comment surrounding the armed forces anniversary that year.

Since the early-1968 period, Moscow has broached the matter of the USSR's ABM capability with less frequency and in language less precise than the Malinovskiy formulation. Typically, Warsaw Pact commander Marshal Yakubovskiy, in a 23 February 1969 RED STAR article marking last year's armed forces anniversary, said Soviet forces were equipped with "rocket anti-aircraft complexes providing reliable protective coverage for our Soviet skies." Commander of the Ground Forces General Pavlovskiy, interviewed by TASS on 7 May 1969 on the anniversary of V-E Day, stated that the "air defense forces . . . are capable of reliably shielding the country's territory and successfully destroying any air targets."

The Moscow domestic service report of last November's October Revolution anniversary parade in Red Square said that the soldiers of the "anti-air defense are always ready to thwart a sudden enemy strike from the air, to destroy the enemy's means of attack, and to safeguard the vital activities of the state and the fighting ability of our armed forces." A Budapest report on the same parade had stated that "antimissile missiles" were on display, "every one of them serving as an argument to prove that not even the additional billions of dollars invested in armaments can provide the U.S. Defense Department with the desired strategic superiority."

On offensive weaponry, Grechko says routinely in PRAVDA that the Strategic Missile Forces "are equipped with powerful missiles with nuclear warheads capable of inflicting a crushing blow upon an aggressor in any part of the planet." The Commander of the Strategic Missile Forces, Marshal Krylov, says in an interview in TRUD on

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20 February that the USSR has powerful nuclear weapons with "practically limitless target-destruction range"--an observation he had also made in a NEW TIMES article reported by TASS on the 18th.

MOSCOW SUSTAINS LOW-KEY ATTACK ON SAFEGUARD PROGRAM

Moscow continues to press its low-key attack on Administration plans to move forward with the Safeguard ABM system, focusing on U.S. domestic opposition. TASS on the 24th, for example, promptly reports Secretary Laird's proposals for construction of a third ABM site in the United States, noting that Laird again came forward with "hackneyed assertions about the so-called 'Soviet threat.'" According to TASS, the "American public strongly objects to the government's decision to expand the Safeguard system. And really this system, in the final count, will devour scores of billions of dollars so much needed for solving acute domestic problems." An earlier dispatch on the 24th had cited Senator Kennedy for the observation that construction of Safeguard "is a senseless waste of money."

While predictably remaining silent on the possible effect of Soviet missile and antimissile development on the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) which will open in Vienna on 16 April, Moscow continues to publicize U.S. concern over the consequences of Washington's weapons programs for these talks. Thus, TASS reports on the 20th that at a recent press conference former Ambassador Harriman indicated that the United States' attempts to develop its "nuclear missile capability make it more difficult for Washington to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union for the limitation of strategic armaments." And TASS on 21 February, reviewing Secretary Laird's report on defense programs to Senate committees the previous day, concludes that "it does not tally with the declarative announcements by official Washington about the aspirations of the United States to find ways and means of limiting strategic nuclear missile weapons."

Otherwise, propaganda currently devotes little attention to SALT. TASS on 20 February does report an interview granted its correspondent by Senator Symington, who observed that the talks "provide an excellent opportunity to start tackling the problem on which the destiny of entire mankind largely depends." TASS quotes the Senator as saying that "if we fail to stop the dangerous and costly race of missiles and nuclear armaments, history might not give us another such chance." He also noted, according to TASS, that the fact that the USSR and the United States each "can destroy the other binds us to approach the program of arms limitation with complete responsibility. . . ."

Soviet propaganda on President Nixon's 18 February report on foreign policy has acknowledged his reaffirmation of intent to move ahead with the second phase of the Safeguard program, but Moscow has not mentioned his remarks on SALT.

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WARSAW PACT

GRECHKO ARTICLE RECAPS DETAILS ON PACT ORGANIZATION

Marshal Grechko's armed forces day article in PRAVDA on 23 February is notable for a brief reiteration of details on the Warsaw Pact organization which had been pointed out in an article by Pact Chief of Staff Shtemenko in RED STAR in January. Shtemenko's article had evoked widespread comment in the West and new gestures of defiance from Bucharest. Included in the 23 February TASS report of the Grechko article, but omitted from a summary broadcast the same day in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia, is the remark that "national armies [of the Pact members] have assigned detachments and units" to the joint armed forces "to ensure better interaction." The Serbo-Croatian version merely reports the Defense Minister as "stressing the increasingly mutual fighting cooperation" between the Soviet and Warsaw Pact members' armies.

Shtemenko's article had gone out of its way to emphasize the subordination of the "allocated" forces to the "joint" command rather than to the "national" commands. It had left the impression that such "joint" land, sea, and air forces had been created at the March 1969 Pact summit meeting in Budapest rather than at the inception of the Warsaw Pact in 1955. Such an interpretation of Shtemenko's article was branded a "Western canard" in a Leontyev article in the 5 February RED STAR.

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P O M P I D O U V I S I T

M O S C O W C O N T R A S T S U . S . " H O S T I L I T Y " T O F R A N C E , S O V I E T A M I T Y

Soviet propoganda surrounding French President Pompidou's visit to the United States contrasts alleged U.S. "hostility" toward the French President and French policy with the "friendship" and policy of rapprochement prevailing in French relations with the USSR and its allies. Reports of anti-French demonstrations said to be planned throughout the country, particularly by "pro-Israeli" groups, get wide Soviet publicity.

A Schlenov commentary broadcast by Moscow for French listeners on the 23d typifies Soviet media's handling of the visit. Schlenov notes that France's withdrawal from NATO had an importance far beyond the military framework and marked the starting point for "crucial measures adopted by French foreign policy," the "essential" measure being the improvement of relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. He states that U.S. attempts to change French policy have ranged from "successive attacks by the United States and Federal Germany against the franc," designed to undermine the French economy and thereby force France to alter its "independent foreign policy," to "gross interference" in French election campaigns. Schlenov suggests that recently U.S. tactics have been changed, and "American propoganda speaks in every key" of traditional French-American friendship while in reality there has been "no noticeable change" in U.S. policy toward France. The commentator refers to French-U.S. differences still persisting on the issues of a European security conference, the question of military blocs, a policy of detente, creation of a European security system, and the Middle East, adding that in the latter case "pro-Israeli American propoganda" practically treats the French Government's sale of jets to Libya "as a treacherous blow inflicted on Israel."

A 25 February Moscow domestic service report on the Pompidou visit says U.S. "political circles" have displayed "visible irritation for some time now" and at times "even open hostility" toward French foreign policy. It adds that while Washington publicly asserts a desire to "disperse the so-called distrust" and improve relations, it "is actually striving to obviate all hindrances and difficulties" which France's "independent policy" creates for the "aggressive and long-outdated foreign policy course" of the United States.

Several Soviet reports call attention to the "fierce anti-French campaign" allegedly being waged in the United States by Congressmen, big business, and various Zionist organizations. A domestic service report on the 22d alleges that "some political figures close to the

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White House" are urging a boycott of Pompidou's visit and demonstrations as an expression of "open hostility to France" because of its independent course "in all cardinal foreign policy problems." A PRAVDA report on the 22d says "favorable conditions are being created for all kinds of provocations on the part of influential pro-Israeli circles" in the United States.

A Moscow broadcast for French listeners on the 23d reassuringly quotes a comment by LA NATION, "which is close to the French Government," as indicating that Pompidou's trip "does not mean a renunciation of the policy of rapprochement with the countries of Eastern Europe, and primarily with the Soviet Union."

Moscow's only coverage of Pompidou's Press Club speech so far is a brief TASS report, devoid of editorial interjections, noting that the French President expressed deep concern about the Middle East situation and is seeking normalization of the area, adding that he said Israel needs peace, and reporting without elaboration that he said there are differences between Washington and Paris "in the approach to different questions of international life."

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WEST GERMANY

GDR MEDIA DISPLAY DOUBTS STOPH-BRANDT TALKS WILL BE FRUITFUL

East German media have begun laying groundwork for propaganda that would blame Chancellor Brandt for any breakdown in the forthcoming talks between Brandt and GDR Premier Stoph, in evident anticipation that the talks may be abortive. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND commentaries and editorials draw on the whole catalog of GDR complaints against the FRG in a tone that has become increasingly vituperative and angry following Brandt's 18 February message to Stoph and the 20 February announcement of agreement to hold low-level preparatory talks. GDR and Soviet media report "complete agreement" in the opening discussions Ulbricht and Stoph had with USSR Foreign Minister Gromyko, who arrived in Berlin for a "detailed exchange of views" on the 24th.

Consistent with past practice, GDR media have not publicized the text of Brandt's 18 February letter to Stoph proposing preliminary low-level talks in early February, to be followed by top-level talks in March, or Brandt's statement "I cannot accept preconditions." GDR media have also ignored the West German Chancellor's suggestion that a second meeting between Stoph and himself take place in Bonn. Soviet media have acknowledged the latter suggestion.

GDR media concentrate primarily on charges that the Brandt government has been guilty of evasion, revanchism, and rejection of recognition for the GDR. Stress is laid on Brandt's "failure" to respond to Ulbricht's earlier proposal, renewed in the 11 February Stoph letter to Brandt, calling for an agreement on "establishment of equal relations between the GDR and the FRG." By "refusing to take up this proposal," ADN reports on the 18th, Brandt "in effect is trying to evade the basic question of the safeguarding of peace." An ADN commentary on the 19th denounces Brandt for dragging out "the old text of so-called preconditions" and seeking to "disguise the clear facts" and to raise a "completely unacceptable condition, based on the old revanchist claim to sole representation," by demanding that the GDR renounce "normal relations under international law and thereby equality." It also berates unnamed West German politicians for speaking of "intra-German relations" between the GDR and FRG, arguing that such "new vocabulary" cannot render palatable for the GDR "anachronistic and presumptuous claims" by "West German imperialism" to sole representation.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND on the 24th accuses the FRG of making "maximum demands" for negotiations with the GDR and denies that the GDR's proposals are of maximum scope, calling the GDR draft treaty proposed in December "only a minimum program." The paper adds that if the Brandt government does not wish to grant the GDR recognition, "then one cannot take its promises seriously."

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SED Politburo member Paul Verner casts doubt on the feasibility of a GDR-FRG renunciation-of-force agreement, as proposed by Brandt, in an 18 February speech reported by ADN. Verner says such an agreement would be "so much worthless paper" if the FRG refused to recognize the territorial status quo and the GDR under international law.

GROMYKO VISIT GDR and Soviet media report that Gromyko came to the GDR on the 24th at the invitation of the GDR Government for "several days" of consultation to "define joint policy for the defense of peace." The inclusion in the Gromyko delegation of Soviet Foreign Ministry officials involved in Gromyko's recent talks with West German State Secretary Bahr appears to confirm that Gromyko's main task is to inform the GDR on the state of the Soviet-FRG talks. Following talks with Ulbricht and Stoph on the 24th, Gromyko is reported on the 25th to have talked with GDR Foreign Minister Winzer on "intensifying" GDR-Soviet relations, "problems of international policy," and European security issues, according to ADN.

East German sensitivity to West German charges that the GDR operates under Soviet tutelage is evident in a 21 February NEUES DEUTSCHLAND report. The paper denounces as "primitive lies and mental contortions" a West German press report, "fabricated in Hamburg and disseminated in Bonn," to the effect that the GDR's draft treaty proposing equal relations between the two German states "had been formulated upon 'Moscow's' initiative!" NEUES DEUTSCHLAND calls this "news concoction" a "lie from beginning to end" and "more proof of the value of news emanating from Bonn, including DPA news."

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BULGARIA

FRICTIONS PERSIST DURING ZHIVKOV VISIT TO PRAGUE

Bulgarian-Czechoslovak animosities dating from the Czechoslovak liberalization persisted close to the surface of propaganda materials on Bulgarian First Secretary and Premier Todor Zhivkov's 17-19 February visit to Prague. The communique released on the 18th, mentioning full identity of views on all "basic questions" during talks held in "a very cordial and comradely atmosphere," is generally restrained in tone. And Moscow's PRAVDA, commenting on the Zhivkov-Husak talks on the 20th, says they were marked by cordiality "and frankness." During the pre-invasion liberalization, in April 1968, the atmosphere of Zhivkov's discussions with Dubcek in Prague had been sternly described as one of "sincerity and comradely frankness." Husak's visit to Sofia in July 1969--in the first flush of his takeover as CPCZ First Secretary--was the occasion for "warm and cordial" talks.

Zhivkov appeared to vent his spleen on the Czechoslovaks in a press conference carried in RUDE PRAVO on the 19th, as if in revenge for the way he had been treated on his arrival in Czechoslovakia in April 1968. On that occasion the liberal Prague radio had broadcast Zhivkov's evasive written answers to questions submitted to him in advance regarding the scanty coverage given the Czechoslovak liberalization by Bulgarian media. Now, Zhivkov indulged in overkill in taking his cue from a question by Bratislava PRAVDA chief editor Nittman on the "counterrevolution." The Bulgarian leader replied that "the defeat of the counterrevolution in Czechoslovakia was received with great joy and relief by our party and our people," and "we are proud that in August 1968 we could, together with the other fraternal socialist countries, help the people of Czechoslovakia retain the positions of socialism and destroy the counterrevolution." He added, for good measure, his conviction that in time "all honest people throughout the world will realize how great an act was done on 21 August 1968" for Czechoslovak socialism and world peace.

Husak characteristically skirted the issue of the counterrevolution and the August intervention in his interview with Sofia's RABOTNICHESKO DELO, published on the 20th. He merely recalled the failures of the "weak, rightist-inclined" post-January 1968 leadership and added that "everyone is aware of the critical situations" which resulted; he stressed his own restorative efforts as party leader since April 1969. On Zhivkov's visit itself, Husak expressed himself as only "very pleased" and noted that "we quite frankly discussed the issues."

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