

UNITED STATES

TASS ISSUES STATEMENT ON TRADE WITH U.S.

Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Dec 74 L

[Text] Moscow--Here is the text of a TASS statement:

As is known, for some time now there has been a discussion in U.S. official circles, including the American Congress, of bills concerning economic and trade relations between the USSR and the United States. At present these bills have been approved separately by the House of Representatives and the Senate, after unified texts have been worked out in the House Senate Conference Committee they are to be finally endorsed by the two houses.

It was envisaged that, in accordance with the understanding in principle reached in 1972 between the USSR and the United States, discriminatory restrictions in economic and trade relations introduced in the U.S. during the "cold war" years would be removed.

However, opponents of a normalization of Soviet-American trade, and also of a general improvement of Soviet-American relations, from the outset actively began to hamper this process, striving to prevent the inauguration of mutually beneficial economic ties between the USSR and the United States, including the mutual granting of the most-favored-nation status in trade and in trade credits, or to be more precise--the removal of the discriminatory conditions applied in the United States toward the Soviet Union.

Matters have gone so far that the positive solution of these matters has been made conditional upon various reservations and demands which are nothing other than gross interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs.

Only in this way can one describe the attempts to include in the bills provisions concerning for example, the departure of Soviet citizens for other countries, the granting of economic information of a purely domestic nature to American institutions, and so on, and, of course, only a loss of a sense of reality could give rise to the idea of creating in the United States some sort of organs for the observance of the Soviet Union's fulfilment of these requirements.

The adoption by the U.S. Congress of this sort of reservation or limiting condition would also run directly counter to the clear obligations of the parties to the 1972 trade agreement between the USSR and United States, which visualized the unconditional end to legislation which discriminates against the Soviet Union.

TASS is authorized to state that the leading circles of the Soviet Union categorically reject as inadmissible any attempts, from whomever they come, to interfere in affairs which are entirely within the internal competence of the Soviet state and do not concern anybody else. In the same circles it is considered that the complications artificially created around the questions of normalization of the trade and economic relations between the USSR and the United States do not correspond to the interests of either side. Mutually profitable cooperation and trade undoubtedly correspond with the interests of both the Soviet and the American peoples.

There is only one foundation upon which Soviet-American relations in general, and trade and economic relations in particular, can be built successfully. It is clearly set forth in the relevant Soviet-American documents, including the agreement mentioned.

The private communication from Foreign Minister Gromyko to Secretary Kissinger of October 26 which was published by TASS today does not , in our view, change the understandings referred to in the Secretary's letter to Senator Jackson of October 18. The Administration has always made clear, most recently in Secretary Kissinger's testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on the Trade Bill, that there exists ^{NO} ~~an~~ understanding or agreement either with the Soviet government or with Senator Jackson concerning numbers of emigrants from the Soviet Union.

Released by Amb. Anderson at the State Department
at 4:30 p.m. EST, December 18, 1974.