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Congressional Record - Leonid Brezhnev's Visit to the United States

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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LEONID BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, in the field of foreign policy, President Nixon has been extraordinarily successful as attested to by his visit to Peking, the promulgation of the Nixon doctrine and, incidentally, the reduction of U.S. military forces overseas from 3.5 million men to 2.3 million, an adjunct to our foreign policy, and his visit to Moscow and the agreements reached there.

President Nixon extended an invitation to Mr. Brezhnev over a year ago. It was accepted some months ago, and now Mr. Brezhnev is here in this country as a guest of this Nation.

While here, I do not expect Mr. Brezhnev to discuss our internal affairs, which are entirely outside his ken, as he has so stated; and the same would apply to any other representative of a foreign country or ours in other countries.

Mr. President, I, for one, do not fear that we will be "taken in" by Mr. Brezhnev. I have full faith in the President of the United States in the conduct of foreign affairs, in which area he has been most successful. I do not downgrade this meeting between Mr. Brezhnev and President Nixon although, frankly, I do not expect anything of a highly significant nature to emerge therefrom.

I would assume that they would discuss trade matters, space matters, energy matters, and the like, and that there would be final agreements announced on the basis of negotiations, heretofore entered into by the representatives of the two countries.

I do wish, though, that consideration would be given to a proposal which was reported from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week by a vote of 14 to 1; that is, a resolution calling on the President to promote negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty. That resolution, I think, has at least 36 cosponsors at the moment. It is an issue which I think could be beneficially discussed on a mutual basis by both countries. It has been brought to the attention of the White House at the request of the Senators concerned. Again, let me say that I am hopeful this matter will at least be discussed.

I would hope also that we would recognize the fact that both countries spend too much on armaments and that a diminution of such would be a good way to focus resources more on the needs of our respective peoples; resources which could be used for constructive purposes rather than potentially destructive purposes.

Frankly, I, for one, am not interested in always being No. 1. I believe in parity. I believe in the doctrine of equality. I do not believe in the doctrine of superiority, because we are all molded from the same clay; we all come from the same soil. I think we should try to treat with nations as we aspire to treat with individuals.

I hope there is more mutual trade between the U.S.S.R. and our own country. I hope there will be more cultural exchanges, more agreements on space, more agreements on energy, although I do not look with too much favor upon the natural gas agreement which has been entered into by private concerns with the Soviet Union, the purpose of which would be to transport liquid natural gas from Siberia to the United States. The price would be very high, and the source, I think, might not be expected to remain permanent.

I would hope for a better understanding between our two nations, because the important consideration, above all else, is peace—peace for all the people of the world, a peace which can, in large part, be guaranteed in concert by countries such as the Soviet Union and the United States, now meeting, through their top representatives, and by other countries as well.
Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the text of Senate Resolution 67.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. Res. 67

Resolution calling on the President to promote negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty;

Whereas the United States is committed in the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty of 1968 to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty; and

Whereas the conclusion of a comprehensive test Ban Treaty, and will fulfill our pledge in the Partial Test Ban Treaty; and

Whereas there has been significant progress in the detection and identification of underground nuclear tests by seismological and other means; and

Whereas the SALT accords of 1972 have placed quantitative limitations on offensive and defensive strategic weapons and have established important precedents for arms control verification procedures; and

Whereas early achievement of total nuclear test cessation would have many beneficial consequences: creating a more favorable international arms control climate; imposing further finite limits on the nuclear arms race; releasing resources for domestic needs; protecting our environment from growing testing dangers; making more stable existing arms limitations agreements; and complementing the ongoing strategic arms limitation talks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States (1) should propose an immediate suspension on underground nuclear testing to remain in effect so long as the Soviet Union abstains from underground testing, and (2) should set forth promptly a new proposal to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other nations for a permanent treaty to ban all nuclear tests.