

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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1-Presidential File

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August 23, 1967
Wednesday 8:20pm

Mr. President:

State Department experts conclude that there is nothing in the Tass statement on recent US bombing in the Hanoi area to suggest that the latest raids have led Moscow to revise its policies on Vietnam or to increase materially its aid to Hanoi.

BKS
Bromley Smith

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Subject: TASS Issues Statement for the Record on Recent US Bombing in Hanoi Area

The TASS statement of August 23 protesting US bombing on August 22 in the Hanoi area fits into a pattern of periodic Soviet statements on this subject. The level of Soviet response in this case, in fact, is somewhat less than on the occasions of Soviet government statements of June 30, 1966 and December 15, 1966 protesting US bombing of these areas. In issuing each of these statements the major Soviet intention is to remain in step with the DRV in protesting US attacks and to render full verbal support to an ally under attack. The timing of this particular statement is possibly related not only to stepped-up activity over the DRV but also to the decision to table the NPT in Geneva tomorrow.

There is nothing in the TASS statement to suggest that the latest raids have induced Moscow to revise its policies on Vietnam or to increase materially its aid to Hanoi. The statement concludes with the assertion that every new US step "inevitably leads to the necessary answering steps." This formula has periodically appeared in Soviet statements.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-299By 120, NARA, Date 12-15-94

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since Kosygin asserted on July 17, 1965 that new US actions would be met with increased support for the DRV, since "in politics as in physics, for every action there is a corresponding reaction."

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