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MOSCOW ON APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT: Moscow's extremely heavy publicity for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project flight, which commenced with the launching of Soyuz-19 on 15 July, included unprecedented live coverage of the launching and recovery and candid reporting of the minor difficulties as well as the achievements of the joint flight. Soviet comment dwelt on the flight's significance for future cooperative space ventures and for U.S.-Soviet relations generally. Taking a cue from Brezhnev's greetings to the Soyuz and Apollo crews on 17 July, commentators emphasized that such a cooperative effort in an area of former competition was made possible only by the recent marked improvement in bilateral relations. According to one radio commentary, cooperation in the "supersecret sphere of space research" would have been unthinkable in the cold war atmosphere which prevailed not long ago. Technical director Konstantin Bushuyev and other Soviet participants in the project told Soviet interviewers that the joint work during and in preparation for the flight had shown that specialists of the two countries could work together successfully on such a complex technical problem despite "natural" disagreements that arose. Brezhnev's message said that "Soyuz-Apollo is a prototype of future international orbital stations." TASS reported shift flight controller Viktor Blagov as telling reporters on the 19th that one form of future cooperation might involve "the future American spaceship shuttle and the Soviet orbital station Salyut."

MOSCOW ON ANGOLA: Sporadic fighting between rival liberation groups in Angola has prompted routine Soviet comment reaffirming Moscow's long-standing support of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and accusing the Chinese of backing the MPLA's opposition. Moscow has blamed the breakdown of the recent cease-fire—negotiated by leaders of Angola's three liberation movements during a 16-22 June meeting in Kenya—on the MPLA's chief rival, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). Characterizing the Moscow-oriented MPLA as a "tested vanguard" of the Angolan people and the "most representative Angolan organization," a 16 July TASS report from Brazzaville denounced the FNLA as a "reactionary" organization formed with the assistance of the United States and "multinational corporations" that was being armed and trained by the Chinese for the purpose of "physically eliminating" the MPLA. A 17 July TASS article by political commentator Kulik expanded on the theme of Chinese support for the FNLA. TASS cited Western and African newspaper reports that the Chinese had trained FNLA troops and supplied them with weapons, and went on to condemn the Chinese for "teaming up

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with agents of U.S. imperialism" to assist "those forces that have no support of the people." Kulik's anti-Chinese polemics and charges of Sino-American collusion in Angolan affairs do not represent a new tack in Soviet propaganda: similar arguments have appeared periodically since the collapse of the Portuguese colonial system in Africa more than a year ago, particularly during periods of tension and fighting between the MPLA and rival groups.

MOSCOW ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: Moscow and its East European allies have continued to mark time on the sixth round of the Vienna force reduction talks, which recessed until 22 September after sessions from 15 May to 17 July. Media comment reiterated previously established positions and provided a bare minimum of publicity on the conclusion of the sixth round, TASS observing on the 17th that "no practical results" had yet been achieved. This position was reinforced by other Moscow comment noting "fundamental" differences that persist between the two sides' proposals. Other standard claims reiterated that the NATO proposals were one-sided and would give "unilateral" advantage to NATO, in contrast to the Warsaw Pact states' various "meaningful" and "compromise" proposals which, it is said, now require new "realistic" Western proposals to move the talks out of their impasse. Recent comment has, as in the past, avoided being totally negative by citing the "good atmosphere" at the talks and pointing to some specific areas where progress might be achieved. TASS on the 17th pointed to one such area as the Pact "initiative" to work out a "coordinated definition of what troops should be called ground troops" and "which should be called air forces." Poland's Vienna spokesman T. Strulak, in his press conference on the 17th reported by Warsaw's TRYBUNA LUDU the next day, feebly linked the force reduction talks to the upcoming Helsinki European conference summit by observing that the summit would "also have a bearing on the Vienna negotiations" and adding that the need for specific measures in the military area of detente "is no doubt acquiring increasing urgency."

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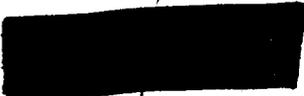
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PHNOM PENH RADIO ON SIHANOUK: While no government has yet surfaced in Cambodia and the ultimate role of Sihanouk has not been made clear, Phnom Penh radio during the past month has resumed periodic references to him as "chief of state" and chairman of the Cambodian Front (NUFC). Sihanouk, who had been confined in his offices at the "special national congress" at the end of April, inexplicably was not mentioned by Phnom Penh radio from mid-May until 21 June, although there were messages in his name during that period which could have been reported. Most of the recent references to Sihanouk, including the one on 21 June, have been in news reports on Cambodian envoys abroad extending messages of gratitude from Sihanouk to the leaders of states they visited. He was also mentioned in a Phnom Penh radio commentary on Cambodian unity on 2 July, however. And on 20 July the radio for the first time cited a recent action by the prince when it noted that he had sent a message of sympathy to Romanian President Ceausescu over damage from recent floods. The message was sent from North Korea, where Sihanouk has been visiting since 19 May, and was first publicized by DPRK media on 15 July. Phnom Penh radio has still not taken note of Sihanouk's sojourn in Korea.

PRC SUMMER HARVEST: A 22 July NCNA report claimed that China has reaped a "good" summer harvest this year, with both total grain output and per hectare yield topping previous records. The report stated that 19 of China's 24 provinces producing summer grain registered increases over last year and that "all" areas of North China showed gains. The North China increases this year may in part reflect a rise over last year's disappointing yields there, which were, however, compensated for by last year's excellent summer rice yields in South China, which NCNA reported were up by 20 percent. NCNA named 11 areas, mostly in North China, where this year's increase exceeded 10 percent. Previously this year a dozen provinces had reported summer harvest yields, with most claiming increases over 1974 of 10 to 20 percent, though an NCNA report on Yunnan on 28 April claimed a 30 percent increment. The summer crops account for less than half of China's total grain output, and the NCNA report noted that rural workers, "encouraged by the excellent summer harvest," are intensifying field management of autumn crops.


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APPENDIX

MOSCOW, PEKING BROADCAST STATISTICS 14 - 20 JULY 1975

Moscow (2496 items)

Soyuz-Apollo Space Mission	(6X)	33X
China	(6X)	6X
Brezhnev Greetings to Moscow Symposium on Scientists' Role in Disarmament	(—)	3X
Supreme Soviet Session	(6X)	3X
Sao Tome Independence	(2X)	2X

Peking (881 items)

Sao Tome Independence	(1X)	9X
[Chou En-lai Greetings [Joint Communique (—) on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations	(1X)	3X]
European Security Conference	(1X)	7X
Middle East	(2X)	3X

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.