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MME. BINH STOPS IN MOSCOW, PEKING ON WAY HOME FROM PARIS

NG TH. BINH

1971
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MOSCOW PRG Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh's 11-14 September stopover in Moscow on her way home to Hanoi from the Paris talks received minimal publicity. Her arrival in Moscow, after a 6-11 September visit to Poland, was briefly reported by TASS that day, and PRAVDA on the 12th noted that she was met at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin. A short PRAVDA report on the 14th noted that Gromyko hosted her at a luncheon the day before. According to PRAVDA on the 16th, Firyubin saw her off on the 14th.

During her last stop in Moscow en route home from Paris, from 11 to 13 June 1970, brief PRAVDA and TASS reports indicated that she was again met at the airport by Firyubin, but there were no reports that she had talks with any Soviet officials.*

PEKING NCNA on 16 September reported at some length on the warm welcome accorded Mme. Binh on her arrival at Peking's airport that day "on her way home from Paris." It said she deplaned "amid cheers and the beating of drums and gongs" to be greeted by a flag- and banner-waving crowd and the dancing of "merry children" at the airport "permeated with a very warm atmosphere of the great friendship and militant unity of the people of China and Vietnam." She was accompanied by PRG Ambassador to Poland Tran Van Tu and was met, according to NCNA, by leading government and party officials--led by Acting Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei--and by leading members of various organizations. The report did not mention the Paris talks.

Mme. Binh was feted at a welcoming banquet hosted by Chi Peng-fei on the evening of the 16th. On the 17th she was "called on" by Chou En-lai in the afternoon and had "a very cordial and friendly conversation" with Chou, Chiang Ching, and Chi Peng-fei that evening, according to an NCNA report of the 17th. On the 18th NCNA said that Mme. Binh met with

Sihanouk that day. Chou and Chi Peng-fei gave a banquet on the 19th in her honor, NCNA said. No speeches or toasts were reported for either the banquet on the 16th or that on the 19th. NCNA announced her departure "for Vietnam" on the 22d; she was seen off by the same group which had met her on arrival with the exception of Fang I, who was not present for her departure.

In contrast, Mme. Binh's 13 June 1970 arrival in Peking "on her way home from Paris" was not reported until the 17th, when a single brief Peking domestic service item noted that Chou En-lai had had a "warm and friendly talk" with her that day and had given an "informal banquet" in her honor. As this time, no speeches or toasts were reported. Peking media gave no other publicity to that visit.