

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

# China Opens Door to Soviet Relations, Attacks Mao Thought Control

Nov. 12 (NSIPS) — The government of the People's Republic of China this week opened the door to resume normal Chinese-Soviet state relations after a ten year hiatus caused by Mao during the Cultural Revolution in 1966-67. In a greeting to the Soviet Union's 59th anniversary celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution, the Chinese leadership dropped their traditional references to the border dispute between the two nations, and declared: "The Chinese people will always hold dear the revolutionary friendship with the Soviet people."

The telegram sent to the Soviet government also states: "On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution, on behalf of the Chinese people we send the fraternal Soviet people ardent congratulations...The Chinese people stand decisively on the side of the Soviet people in the struggle for the protection and defense of the path of the October Revolution. The Government of China and the Chinese people will continue, following the course that quarrels on questions of principle between China and the Soviet Union should not hinder normal state relations between the two countries, to maintain and develop inter-state relations on the basis of the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual advantage, and peaceful coexistence. This answers the common hopes of the people of both countries."

With the exception of the London Times, no Western press has printed the historic telegram.

Two years ago, China's Nov. 7 message called for mutual troop withdrawals from "disputed border areas" as a precondition to talks to normalize relations. The so-called "border question" between the two countries stems from claims made by Mao Tse-tung beginning in the early 1960s against huge tracts of Soviet Siberia ceded to Tsarist Russia by the Chinese Emperor in the last century. The demands were introduced by Mao to place an irreversible barrier in the way of friendly Sino-Soviet ties. Last year, in a partial softening of position, China mentioned the border issue, but dropped the provocative demand for troop withdrawals. In view of repeated Soviet requests for normalization talks since Mao Tse-tung died Sept. 9, the dropping of all mention of the border issue is an affirmative answer to the Soviet call.

Complementing their warm message, Chinese representatives attending anniversary ceremonies given by the Soviet Union in both Moscow and Peking did not walk out in protest, breaking Maoist practice since 1967. Indicating a thawing of cultural relations as well, the Chinese for the first time in many years broadcast on Peking television a Soviet documentary film on the October Revolution, omitting any unfavorable comment.

### Atlanticists Threaten War Over China

The Chinese message has finally forced the Atlanticists to publicly indicate their terror over the improving prospects for a Sino-Soviet reconciliation. An article in the Baltimore Sun Nov. 10 based on information from "American observers," a thinly-disguised reference to top Atlanticist circles, said that "a true reconciliation between the Communist giants would require a

high-risk reappraisal of American interests throughout Europe and Asia." The term "high-risk" can only mean that a reconciliation would pose the question of war to the United States. The remainder of the article cited several Atlanticist authorities to comment that "reasons — territorial, ethnic and psychological" "are too great to permit real political alliance." The London Times, reacting to the Chinese telegram, hysterically proclaimed that China's nationalism would insure the country's "absolute independence" from any new alliance with the Soviets.

The vehemence of the Atlanticist response to the threat of rapprochement has repercussions for China that China's policymakers are well aware of. It is probable that one reason why China has simultaneously maintained its fierce polemics against "Soviet social-imperialism" in international forums is to assure — for the time being — the Atlanticists not to worry, to give China the time it needs to inch its policy away from the Maoist anti-Soviet line. A sudden Chinese cessation of polemics would not only endanger the establishment of U.S. diplomatic ties, but risk a more drastic U.S. response.

### Real Cultural Revolution Begins

China's new rulers moved this week to tap the long-suppressed creative resources of the country for the nation's development tasks, by opening a campaign to "let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend." The new leadership is attacking the purged Maoist clique led by Mao's widow Chiang Ching for suppressing all freedom of thought and expression. The "hundred flowers" slogan dates from an abortive attempt in 1957 to allow more freedom of expression, and its revival now is an ambiguous message to China's intellectuals that they can come out after the long Maoist night.

A 6,000-character article in People's Daily today charged the "quartet" of purged Maoists with using "reactionary art and literature to attack a large number of comrades in the Party, Government and Army," and with "fabricating anti-Marxist theories and giving them to the revolutionary artists and writers as if they were sacred law." The quartet "curbed the taste of the people for revolutionary artistic works." A New China News Agency story earlier this week said that since the Maoist purge, "The revolutionary enthusiasm suppressed for years by the four rascals has erupted like a volcano." Maoist brainwashing and thought control was explicitly repealed in an Oct. 24 People's Daily editorial which said that from now on, "centralism...discipline...and unity of will" will be accompanied by "democracy...freedom...and personal ease of mind and liveliness."

An Oct. 31 People's Daily reprint of a Liberation Army Daily editorial also promised an end to mass political purges and opened the door to bring back many of the cadres purged by Mao since 1965. "Political parties as a general rule are directed by more or less stable groups composed of the most authoritative, influential, and experienced members."

Concerning the economy, the Chinese press castigated the Maoists for sabotage and began ridiculing unmistakably Maoist