

# Communist hardliners reject 'Gorbymania'

by Herbert Quinde

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You may fool all of the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all the people all of the time." The intensified diplomatic activity by an increasing number of international communist leaders in recent weeks indicates they have taken Lincoln's dictum to heart.

Fearful of the success of the reform movement sweeping Eastern Europe and its political ramifications, communist "hardliners" are making it known that they believe that Gorbachov's *perestroika* has started to backfire.

Ironically, as both the Bush administration and congressional leaders have reached the consensus that the United States must save Gorbachov at all costs, the Kremlin leader's "comrades" in Red China, Cuba, communist North Korea and Romania, among others, are giving him the "thumbs down."

Speaking Nov. 24 to the closing session of the Romanian Communist Party congress in Bucharest, the Stalinesque dictator Nicolae Ceausescu attacked the U.S.-Soviet condominium and expressed fears about the outcome of the Bush-Gorbachov Malta summit. "Mankind must be aware today of a possible new accord between the United States and the Soviet Union to the detriment of other peoples—and you know well that this is today of concern to many states," Ceausescu said. The Romanian leader's iron-fisted control of his 23 million subjects has given him the distinction of being the only East bloc ruler who has not had to face down hundreds of thousands of demonstrators demanding freedom.

Romania's "hard line" has been backed by Red China which has been on a "diplomatic offensive to build international solidarity among orthodox communists" since the regime's butchery of students on June 4, according to a former Red Chinese diplomat still representing his country as a think-tanker in Washington, D.C. "In the aftermath of Tiananmen Square," he reported, "China found itself isolated and negatively contrasted to the reform process in the U.S.S.R. Under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping, bonds of solidarity have been strengthened with Cuba, North Korea, and Romania, among other nations skeptical that Gorbachov could succeed."

The diplomatic offensive has included a visit by China's brutal security chief, Qiao Shi, to the Romanian party congress that just concluded. It is rare for a visit of Qiao Shi

abroad to be publicized. A member of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo, Qiao Shi met with Ceausescu to discuss the Romanian dictator's proposal, first made in an interview with the Chinese paper *People's Daily*, for upgrading Romanian-Chinese cooperation. Ceausescu told the paper, "We see developing cooperation with the Chinese Communist Party and people as extremely important. . . . Now more than ever before, it is necessary to have cooperation between communist parties and between socialist countries."

Fidel Castro, who intelligence-linked sources say has played a crucial role in supporting the murderous insurgency in El Salvador, is scheduled to visit Beijing at the beginning of next year. The Cuban leader, who has publicly rejected *perestroika* as applicable to his island nation, will be visiting China for the first time since the early 1960s.

In early November, the barbaric leader of North Korea, Kim Il-Sung, was feted for a couple of days by the Chinese leadership. His trip overlapped that of Henry Kissinger who was on a diplomatic mission for President Bush in an attempt to keep channels open to the Beijing butchers. The Romanian Political Publishing House on Nov. 14 announced that 15,000 copies of a "collection of the immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-Sung" will soon be available in Bucharest, Romania.

Lest one be left with the impression that Red China is attacking Gorbachov personally, the pro-Red Chinese former diplomat commented, "It is not that China opposes reform, it is that Gorbachov has not succeeded. It is similar to Zhao Ziyang [the purged Chinese reformer] and the students [in Tiananmen Square]; they were given their chance but did not succeed. It is not that there is an anti-Gorbachov faction in the Soviet leadership. The reforms associated with his personality were part of the plan. The plan no longer works so there will be a natural evolution to a more successful solution," he opined.

Should Gorbachov fall or be forced to adapt to the "hardliners," in the short to medium term, strategic analysts believe the change will be signaled by a crackdown within the Soviet empire. Left with egg on their face will be the "I love Gorby" cheerleaders such as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"If Gorbachov goes, Bush could be in big political trouble," commented a military source with connections to the White House. "The real big danger in Gorbachov's demise is a more formal rapprochement between Red China and the U.S.S.R. hardliners. . . . [S]uch an intensified relationship would be political death for Bush. After the administration's bending over backwards, it would have the effect of destroying Bush politically. . . . The United States has pinned its hopes on one charismatic leader; one cannot base strategic policy on personalities. Bush is making the same mistake as Roosevelt, who thought he had such an overpowering personality that that was enough to handle Stalin. That is part of the reason we are in the present mess."