

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## COMMUNIST AREA

● USSR: Sino-Soviet Dispute

28 November 1965

### SOVIETS REOPEN POLEMICS

Six days after the Chinese communists published their latest and perhaps strongest editorial in the pages of People's Daily and Red Flag, Pravda, using an unusual approach, outlined the Chinese article and made a number of appropriate comments. Many people saw in the move the reopening of polemics between the two parties.

But the formal reopening of polemics actually took place on 28 November when Pravda, in a carefully worded editorial, accused the Chinese of playing into imperialist hands by following a line of splitting the communist movement.<sup>1</sup>

What the writers of Pravda's editorial have done was to admit again the graveness of the existing differences in the international communist movement and to blame the Chinese for those differences. For the first time since Khrushchev's fall, the CPSU is now openly accusing the Chinese leadership of subverting the unity of the communist movement, of carrying on a "super-revolutionary" line and of being opposed to the ending of polemics.

The CPSU, it is pointed out, has throughout its history fought against nationalism, dogmatism and revisionism. It has always been opposed to opportunists who, "donning various masks including those of 'super-revolutionaries' have tried to divert the communist movement from the right road, and consequently to undermine its struggle.

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1) "International Duty of the Communists of All Countries," Pravda, 28 November 1965.

While having refrained from polemics -- Pravda maintains -- the party's Central Committee had done everything to ensure the normalization of the relations between China and the Soviet Union and their respective parties. "In the past year" -- the editorial reveals -- "the Central Committee of the CPSU has time and again proposed to the Chinese leadership to come out together on highly important specific issues to develop relations between the states, to settle many problems in dispute."

But, we are told, the CPSU and other Marxist-Leninist parties "met with no positive response" from the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party "in their desire to ensure the unity of action of communists."

The editorial, however, is most dramatic when it attempts to demonstrate that the Chinese are basically giving a "gift" to imperialist propaganda by supplying material on a variety of issues against the Soviet Union. "It is incompatible with the conscience of a communist" -- it complains -- "to repeat the slanderous fabrications of the ideologists of imperialism about a 'capitalist regeneration' of the Soviet state."

Of course, few if any "imperialist ideologists" view the Soviet economic reforms as attempts at a "capitalist regeneration." On the other hand, Pravda is right in saying that what the Chinese are really doing is calling for "an organizational dissociation" from the USSR, which the editorial describes as "the principal force which is accomplishing the historic mission of building a new socialist and communist society."

While the writers of the Pravda editorial probably find it beneath their dignity to answer the Chinese accusations about restoring capitalism in the Soviet Union, they carefully answer those concerning Soviet aid to Vietnam. They point out that the Soviet Union is providing all necessary assistance to Vietnam, and recall that the leaders of the Vietnamese Workers Party "have more than once spoken highly of this aid." While Pravda makes no definite mention of Chinese obstruction of the flow of military aid to Vietnam, it does not fail to