

FACT OR FANTASY

# SINO - SOVIET SPLIT

By Andy White

CONCLUSION

In the first installment of this article, the arguments, pro and con of the existence of a split between the 2 giants of the Communist world were presented. These arguments were on philosophical, realistic, and historical grounds. Those who support the current academic idea that there is an actual rupture between the USSR and Communist China advance arguments based on the following themes. On the philosophical level; Russia, although hardly 'savory' at one time has definitely changed, and, they add, Russian society is moving closer to the Western way, while we in the West are moving ever nearer to the Soviet way of life (?) "Realistically" speaking we are told by this segment of the "Pro-split" faction that the West must seize upon this opportunity to "relax world tensions" and be willing to support Russia in case of a theoretical Chinese attack. All this has a vaguely and sickeningly familiar ring to it. The historical wing merely assert that nationalism is coming to the surface in both Russia and China, and that border disputes between these 2 have been common in the past. The counter argument stressing the utterly amoral approach of the Communist theoretician was presented, supported by quotes from Vladimir Ilyich Lenin himself. The past record of "Khrushchev the Butcher" was then briefly reviewed.—A. W.

**The theory has been advanced that the verbal war between the 2 major Communist powers has gone too far to be simply a ruse, that behind all this smoke there must be at least a tiny flicker of fire. Once again, there are examples from the past which contradict this point of view. Up to June 22, 1941, the second World War was, according to the Russians, "an imperialist's war." After this, it became, suddenly "the sacred struggle of the Proletariat against Fascism."**

**OPERATION BARBAROSSA**

This date in June of that year, marked the commencement of Operation Barbarossa, the German assault against Russia, which failed, we might add as an aside, not because of superior military strategy on the part of the Soviet Union, as has been stated by certain learned authorities, but owing to the fact that the German High Command (OKW) wasted some 17 days of excellent campaigning weather in August of that year arguing amongst themselves, and doing so at a time when the Red Army was truly 'in extremis'. This, plus the fact that the mud season came a full 2 weeks earlier, the German armies being equipped neither for it nor the cold which followed it saved Russia at her hour of greatest need. This is mentioned here solely to lay to rest the myth of invincibility with which some people have credited the Soviet Union.

**'VOLTE FACE'**

It is understandable that the Russian Government should change its mind rapidly when suddenly and ferociously attacked by a neighbour, but the fact that the Communist parties in other countries, allegedly national parties, so abruptly, and without a trace of embarrassment changed their opinion on this matter shows the degree to which these people have been trained to make an abrupt 'volte face'. The way the Soviets abruptly turned against the West only shortly after the last shots had been fired in Europe, and the way in which the masses of their people followed this move is but more evidence of the realism of this point of view.

**WHAT GAINS TO BE MADE?**

The next question which will be asked is, without doubt, just what can the Soviets hope to achieve by apparently splitting with their Asia colleague. That is very simply answered. By making it seem desirable that certain European matters be peddled, such things as the eventual reunification of Germany, and, perhaps

even the return of her pirated Eastern territories nothing can result but, the cooling of the present highly cordial Washington-Bonn relations, something for which the Kremlin strategists would give their eye-teeth to achieve. Similarly, a lulling effect might easily result in the U.S. and other Western countries.

**PEOPLE'S CAPITALISM?**

As far as the statement that the Soviets are moving closer to the Western way of life is concerned, the only evidence that we have seen of this to date is the institution of the profit motive as

an incentive to the production line worker. There is nothing terribly new in this except the fact that it is now on a sliding scale, and is called sharing, where as before it was on a fixed reward basis, and is known to historians as the Stakhanovite system. The return to a fairly free level of small scale Capitalism by Lenin in the early twenties could also be cited in this connexion; he gradually re-instituted control over the economy as recovery from the effects of the revolution, and from the results of the world's first experiment in Marxism. The most dramatic aftermath of this policy of the prophet of practical Communism was the establishment of the Kulaks—a group of farmers who owned their own land, and were empowered to hire others to work for them, even though on a very small scale. Like all of the new 'capitalists' of post-revolutionary Russia, these 'wealthy farmers' as they were called at the time

were ruthlessly exterminated as soon as their usefulness had passed. The Kulaks alone numbered in their millions; as such their disappearance, complete and final, made quite a stir, even in the pacifist world of the 1920's.

As far as the statement that we in the West are leaning toward the Soviet way of life, we can only hope that this will not happen in our lifetime.

Many have stated that there have been many border disputes between China and Russia. Most assuredly, this is so. But how many of these were really over important areas. Surely, no one can say that the Chinese agricultural interests, (and this segment of their government can surely be the only one that can have any real interest in territorial expansion of this sort) have shown themselves overly eager to expand in any directions except toward the South, where climatic conditions and the like seem more suited to their methods and aims in the field.

Mao's Statement that his country could by virtue of its massive population, survive an all-out assault by nuclear weapons must also be discounted as a form of colossal double-bluff. (For it very hard to imagine a country more vulnerable to N-arms than China, her huge population crowded as it is into a number of river valleys, and compressed and constricted so closely that every square inch of land, almost literally every square inch, is utilized in any of these fertile areas.)

**BRAIN WASHING**

In summing up, this alleged split would seem to resemble the well-known brain washing technique — that of the nice guy and the nasty guy — only this time on a macro scale. This is a system whereby the victim, after having first been somewhat stupefied and subjected to great strain, often by the simple act of sleep denial is 'interrogated' separately by 2 men. One of them is aggressive and brutal, threatening and overbearing. The other pretends to sympathize with the victim and deplore the "disgraceful" behavior of his colleague (s) but is always, regretfully, of course, un-

able to interfere with the acts of his "superiors". Finally, the poor besotted victim gives in, either to the domineering 'father image' of the harsh approach, or else, feeling that he must do something to repay his 'friend', he yields to him all that he wants and often more.

**RUSSIANS, THE "NICE GUYS"**

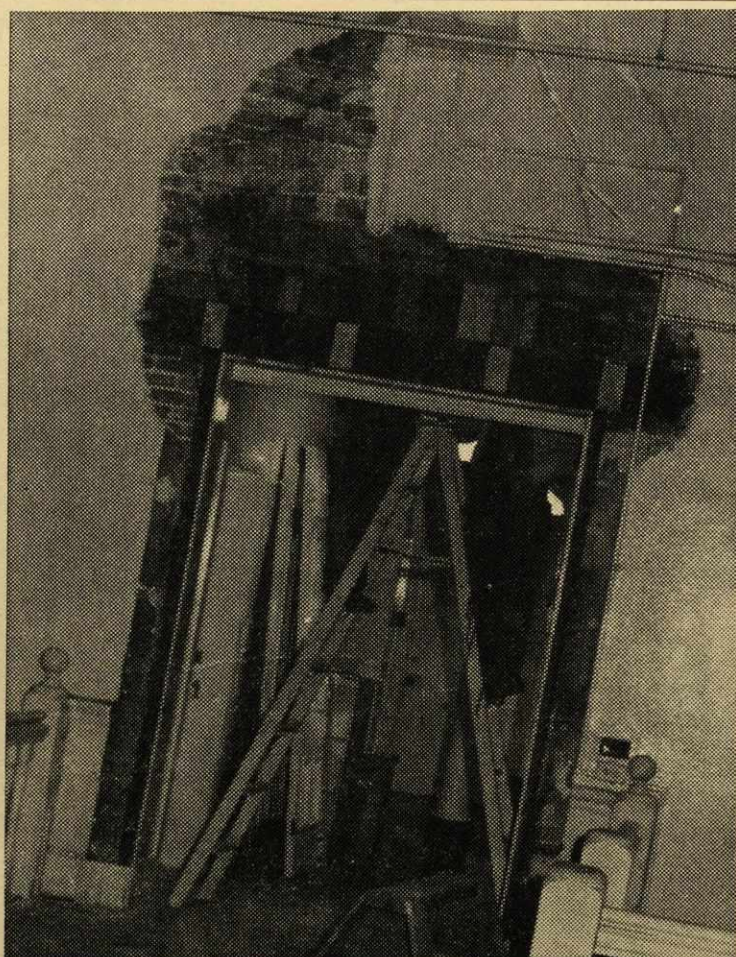
Certainly, there is much to be said for this approach. The Russians have been 'nice guys' before, and they have not, at least on any scale fought the forces of the Western powers, in recent history, to wit, of course, the exception of Germany. Mao has been abusive from the start and is therefore a natural for the role of 'heavy'. What is even more favorable is that, except for the Viet Nam affair, the Chicoms are almost completely separated from the West. No one believes that China as things stand at this time is any real and direct threat to the North American mainland, and it is often this awareness that is needed to galvanise the American public into really positive reaction.

One needs only to look at the career of Roosevelt to see this. He was able to work up the populace of the U. S. into a fighting state long before the war actually came to the country simply by his constant repetition of the totally unfounded and utterly baseless myth that North America was in danger from the Axis Powers.

Russia, indeed possesses this ability, another cogent reason for her casting in the sympathetic role.

That there are differences between Russia and China we do not deny. Canada and the U.S. are among the best of neighbors and they have their differences. A glance at almost any Canadian Daily will reveal this even to the most disinterested reader.

But to state that the leaders of the Communist world would be so utterly stupid as to agree to quarrel at this stage in world affairs seems to us to be so completely out of tune with the performance of these governments to date that it is not even worth serious consideration by the serious student of International Affairs.



**LOOKS LIKE THE OLD FORREST BUILDING IS FALLING**

**DOWN!** This is the scene as workmen attempt to repair a broken down doorway on the second floor. Med boys! if you find in the next few weeks you don't have anywhere to work on your rats come up to the canteen. That's about all the food's good for. (D.G.P. Munroe)