

FACT OR FANTASY

SINO - SOVIET SPLIT

by Andy White

PART ONE

Among the more recent developments on the international scene, wheat deals and test-ban treaties notwithstanding, is surely the much-discussed and by now widely-publicised ideological differences between the two giants of the Communist world Red China and the Soviet Union. The reading public has been bombarded with evaluations first by columnists of all political hues and, more lately, political scientists and historians have joined the throng of pundits, endeavoring to make their voice heard concerning this matter, described by many as being the most significant turn of events in world history since the establishment of the Soviet Union, 1917.

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE?

The developments to date can be simply and briefly described: the Soviet Union, declaring to the world that it has renounced the idea that war with the West is necessary has embarked on a policy of "peaceful co-existence". This approach is quite in contrast to the fervid, hot-eyed pronouncements of the leadership of the Chinese wing of the Communist movement, who hold the view that war with the "imperialists and colonialists" of the West is a foregone conclusion, and only the date of the event is yet to be finally decided upon. In support of this thesis, Mao Tse-tung has repeatedly said that his nation could survive the effects of an all-out nuclear war, and, moreover that it would be the only one that could accomplish this feat.

The result of all this has been some rather loud and demonstrative public name-calling, and some minor border disputes between the Soviet Union and the Chinese in Central Asia. Also, in Europe, while the Soviet satellites, with the one exception of Albania have hewn to the Moscow line, the Asiatic parties have followed Mao's example. Also, as a more recent development, Yugoslavia has returned to the fold.

In face of all these happenings, there has been a remarkable decrease in the frequency of incident

in Europe, and the Soviets made a seemingly major concession to the West in the signing of the much-touted partial test-ban treaty. They have even been able to silence the shrill yappings of Fidel Castro from the fastness of his "tight little island" in the Caribbean against his powerful northern neighbour.

RUSSIA NOT EVIL?

The reaction to this has been varied. Academicians, both from the viewpoints of History and Political Science have thrown themselves into this fray, and both their opinions and their advice are highly significant. The general consensus of opinion on the matter seems to be as follows: The West must be "realistic" and attempt to use this division for the ends of World Peace, or, if it came to it, to support the Soviet Union against her giant step-child. They point out that Russia is definitely the lesser of the two evils. Indeed, some have advanced the opinion that Russia is not really evil at all; that that part of her history is behind her now, and terminated with the bad old days of Stalinism. They say, moreover, that Soviet Society is rapidly becoming similar to Western Society, and, pointing with pride at "social" legislation in these countries, that we in the West are moving closer to the Soviet way of life(!) All of this, they say, indicates that the Cold War

is on the verge of final termination, in Europe, at least, and all that remains to be done is to convince poor silly old Mao that his bellicose ideas are out of date in this bland, modern era, and that we can all soon settle down to a utopian period of mutual love and eternal bliss. Of course, they admit, the Chinese may not see it in this light, and that moral pressure must be applied from all sides; of course, this brings up the problem of Chinese membership in the U.N., something which, it is to be noticed, the Soviet Union is still supporting.

WORLD TENSION RELAXES?

Other authorities of a more historical bias, point out that Communism, as practiced in any of the countries under domination of either the Soviet or the Chinese brand has fitted remarkably, if one gets down to the basis of things, with the social traditions already extant in these areas. Thus, they say, Communism is really somewhat analogous to the icing on the surface of a cake. This is the showy, the tasty part, but the solid bulk of the article is what lies beneath. Therefore, they assert, that Communist Governments are really, after the excitement of the revolution has died, just as nationalistic as governments which are to be found on the right side of the political spectrum. They point out the long history of border disputes

which have occurred between the two countries, disputes which reach far back into the past, and long predate the present regime in either land. Bearing in mind their other hypothesis about the nature of the Communist societies in the

And lastly — "When the time comes for us to hang the capitalists, they will try to outbid one another to sell us the hemp." Now what does all this mean under the present circumstances?

It could, for instance, mean yet another in the series of very well-thought-out moves to cause dissension on one hand, and a feeling of complacency on the other in the camp of their Western opponents. This is certainly a sweeping statement, almost a radical one, and as such certainly requires a full explanation.

LENIN THE HYPOCRITE

As a start, then, we would like to give a short sketch of the past behavior of the Soviet Union in World affairs. We select the Soviets for this special treatment because they have been in operation for a considerable number of years, while the Red Chinese government has had only a little over a decade's existence. In the course of this exposition, we shall attempt to contrast the Soviet's past behavior with some of the statements made in recent months concerning their probable future activities. From 1924, when the country began to emerge as a nation once again, it can be said, except for a handful of very minor trade pacts, that not one single treaty has been observed by the Moscow Government. At the close of World War I, Lenin gave full independence to the several of the minorities within the former Tsarist empire, only to reconquer them when he had reamassed sufficient force to do so. Only Poland frustrated this prophet of "World Revolution of the Proletariat" in the Battle of Warsaw in the summer of 1920. The Soviets protestations of friendship, interspersed with shrill denunciations when they felt the others were not getting sufficient results in the form of arms and diversionary efforts are well-known to any student of the Second World War. So is the complete bad faith demonstrated by the Soviet Government after the many "Big Three" conferences.

KHRUSHCHEV THE BUTCHER

It can be said that not one agreement made there to refrain from interference in the affairs and societies of the countries overrun by the Red Army in the closing months of the conflict was ever kept by Moscow. At this point, a shrill tirade will be raised, no doubt, to the effect that all this was done under the evil tutelage and leadership of Stalin. Khrushchev, they assert, is much different man from his diabolical predecessor. But is he? This is the same man who was entrusted by Stalin with the "pacification" of the Ukraine after the explosion of the German forces near the end of World War II. This was considered necessary because many a Ukrainian was prepared to put up with the follies of a Himmler rather than the drab tyranny of Stalin, Beria and Company. Khrushchev accomplished the task with great gusto and with a high level of efficiency. Only a few thousand people were massacred. In view of the above mentioned statements of Lenin, and the past record of the Soviet Union, any trend or Policy which so fits the desires of so many of our people can be viewed rather critically, to say the least.



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countries which have fallen under their sway, they underline the pervasively expressed viewpoint that a Sino-Soviet split is inevitable. They add that, to overpopulated China, the vast empty stretches of Siberia must look like the biggest thing in the world, and one of the most desirable. In light of this, they claim that the West must disengage from the Soviet in Europe and attempt by this method, to keep the Chinese dragon in check. (Even when one discards the pacifist and utopian ravings that have been unleashed as a result of the present World situation, it would certainly seem to put the West in the most favourable position for some time, and would seem to strengthen the possibility that NATO and the Soviet Block can live in harmony together for an indefinite period. Even the dream of many U.N. supporters of at least partial disarmament and "the relaxation of world tensions" would seem to be not just imminent but progressing. However, there is another side to all this.)

LENIN THE PHILOSOPHER

Perhaps the best way to give the view from the other side of the hill would be to start by citing some of the maxims of one "Old Bolshevik" who has not been discredited, not has been rejected by any leading Red. We are referring to no less a personage than the late Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Among his many statements appeared the following very explicit views. "One step backwards for two steps forward" also "If you are not willing to crawl on your belly in the mud once in a while, you are no true revolutionary, you are merely a windbag."

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