

Who has the audacity

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By THOMAS OLA OJOWURO

China's Mao Tse Tung is dead. This is sad news for most people around the world except the Russians and, to some extent, the Israelis. The Russians have for long been Peking's predominant national security concern and the Israelis have been branded by the Chinese as 'racists and Zionist aggressors'. However, the fact that the Chinese accepted the messages of condolence which poured into Peking from the West after Mao's death does not mean that they regard the United States and its Western allies as reliable friends.

Contrary to this, China looks at both the Super powers and their allies with increasing suspicion as the world's unprecedented arms race accelerates. If asked what he thinks will happen now that Chairman Mao and Chou En Lai are dead, a schoolboy in the remotest village in China will probably answer: "The Russian expansionists and the American capitalists will come." But will any of the Super powers ever think of invading China? One cannot adequately answer this question until the political, economic, and military situation in China have been examined.

Ten years ago, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership met to approve the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution initiated by the late Chairman Mao Tse Tung. The GPCR was mainly aimed at purging "capitalist-roaders" from the positions they held in the country. Eventually, the former head of State, Liu Shao-chi and former Party Secretary-General, Teng Hsiao-ping, were removed for being allegedly out to restore capitalism in China.

The GPCR was an unprecedentedly massive purge, generating severe political upheaval and economic disruption and victimizing a large number of party officials. These officials not only were dismissed from their posts but were also subjected to public self criticism and "struggle" meetings and paraded through the streets wearing dunce caps. It is not surprising, therefore, that ten years after its initiation, the GPCR still remains a focal point of bitter controversy within the Chinese Communist Party leadership.

The radicals in the party who brought about the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s want to see the movement last into the very distant future. The death of Mao, of course, is a big blow to these radicals who saw him as their biblical God. For the time being, the political conflict at home continues.

Although since 1960 China has not released figures with which the rate of its economic growth could be measured, there is no doubt that its economy is growing at a reasonable rate. The economic relationship between China and the European Economic Community (EEC) has so far helped to boost the Chinese economy.

From 1950 to 1960, the Peoples Republic of China imported a large number and wide variety of industrial machinery and equipment from the USSR. But since the present rift developed between the two communist countries, China has altered its foreign trade policy significantly. From 1961 to 1971, China imported most of its capital goods and advanced industrial technology from Japan and Western Europe.

Until 1972, China was conducting one-fifth of its entire trade with the EEC. The EEC had been China's second largest trading partner after Japan and was third export market for China after Japan and Hong Kong. However, the expansion of China's trade with the United States and African countries is reducing the proportion of its trade with the EEC. Total trade between the U.S. and China was over \$935 million in 1974 and over \$820 million of that sum represented United States exports.

If relations between the Peoples Republic of China and the West remains good, China will continue to receive both military and economic material from the U.S. and the EEC. Undoubtedly, China's trade with the Western powers is making the Russians feel uncomfortable.

China's military capability, although immense, is below that of either of the Super powers. Its T59 and T62 tanks, MiG19, MiG21 and F9 military aircraft are inferior to those of the United States and Russia. By 1972, China had deployed about twenty Medium Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBMs) of 1000-mile range and a few Intercontinental Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs). It has a reasonable air defence system and it is also said to be building a nuclear submarine.

China's atomic bombs, Super powers, are strong enough to obliterate any civilization heavily in the nuclear power. China has absorbed not just a scarce scientific manpower satellite launchings short missile programme, though uncertain how far it has missile guidance. Nevertheless, analysts say that China is behind the United States military capability.

China has repeatedly said not be the first to use nuclear the event of a war and this is presumably intended to be from a first-strike by a second-strike retaliatory force the aforementioned military the Super powers, China's superiority over both the population of 800 million double that of the two Super

Some, if not all, of probably conclude from information that because political division, economic inferiority to the Super invasion by either of the giants will be an easy task clear here that the invasion any country will be a suicide. China is a country of thickly terrain and poor communication, making its invasion unthink

Mao, who saw his country well carved out for jungle warfare. Since most military agree that "the best defence

