Communist China's Policy Toward Asian Neighbors Decisions Subject

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of articles discussing subjects of the "Great Decisions . . . 1957" program. Today's article discusses Red China and whether or not the country has become a major Communist power.)

The past 2½ months, in the opinion of a number of observers, have transformed Red China from Russia's junior Asian partner into a major world power.

Since mid-November, these commentators point out, the Communist Chinese government has pursued its vigorous policy toward Asian neighbors like India and Burma; thrown its weight on the side of Russia in the troubled Middle East, and jumped into the middle of Russia's problems with the East European satellites — possibly strengthening a shaky Communist alliance.

If this trend continues, the West may some day have to deal with Red China as one of a new "big three"—Washington, Moscow and Peiping. On these terms the world balance of power might shift dangerously in favor of a unified, aggressive Communist bloc. And the U.S. may be forced to deal as an equal with Peiping, a Communist government that it does not now recognize.

What recent events raise these fears of a new and globally powerful Communist China.

Last November, under U. S. leadership, the UN general assembly voted once again to postpone debate on the question of giving China's UN seat to the Communist government in Peiping. The seat is now held by Chiang K'ai-shek's Kuomintang government on Taiwan.

The day after that UN vote, Red China's premier and foreign minister, Chou En-lai, began a global junket that step by step uncovered Red China's 1957 approach to the rest of the world.

First stop was Commnist North Vietnam, where Chou conferred with government leaders who had just quashed a "reactionary uprising" in one of the provinces. Next, he went to neutralist Cambodia for a goodwill visit, then on to Burma to discuss a persistent border dispute that mars relations between the two neighboring countries. Here Chou stood firm, making no concessions to Burma.

"Great Decisions . . . 1957" subjects will be discussed on three Rogue valley radio and television stations this week. Radio station KMED will carry the Great Decisions program at 9 p.m. today, and KWIN, Ashland, will carry the program at 9:15 p.m. today. Station KBES-TV will telecast the program at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Two of Chou's key steps were in India, visiting Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru before and after Nehru's trip to Washington for conferences with President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is believed that Nehru raised the question of a UN seat for Red China in his talks with Eisenhower.

New Foreign Policy

Although this idea apparently got nowhere in Washington, Chou immediately uncovered two new lines in Red China's foreign policy:

1. The UN is inefectual and proved it in its handling of the Suez crisis.

2. Red China opposes U. S. "imperialism" in the Middle East (specifically, the "Eisenhower doctrine" to guarantee the scurity of the area from Communist aggression).

The first line, regarding the UN, might be dismissed as "sour grapes." But point two raised the question in Western capitals: Since when does Red China have any legitimate interests in the Middle East

Interests in Europe

The next startling development was when Red China presented itself as a power with interests in Europe as well.

The Hungarian revolution had given international Communism its worst setback to date in the eyes of world opinion.

On New Year's day Chou interrupted his Asian tour. After a week of conferences in Peiping, he spent two weeks traveling through satellite Europe mending Communist fences and repairing satellite ties with Moscow, particularly in Poland and Hungary.

To some observers Chou was Russia's "errand boy." To others he appeared as a powerful spokesman for the international Communist movement and growing Chinese power. In his own words, he had come to Eastern Europe to help preserve the "unity" of the Communist countries "headed by the great Soviet Union."

Drifting Away

There was some evidence during December and January that the new Polish government of Wladyslaw Gomulka was drifting away from Moscow and closer to the kind of independent Communism which characterizes the Yugoslavia of Marshal Tito. It was during these troubled days that Chou En-lai appeared in Warsaw to negotiate with the Gomulka government.

After five days of talks a joint communique revealed the results of Chou's efforts.

In return for a statement guaranteeing against interference in domestic affairs, Poland gave its guarantee of support to the rest of the Communist bloc in international affairs.

Election Held

A few days after Chou's visit to Warsaw, elections were held in Poland. They resulted in a clear victory for Gomulki's Communist government. Observers gave Chou a little of the credit, even though agreeing that the Polish citizen's fear of provoking Russia was most important. Chou's principle of "preserving Communist unity," appeared to be sticking.

Meanwhile, there is much speculation on the meaning of Red China's new role in the world. Here are some current interpretations:

On the economic side, Communist Chinese leaders believe that their own system can survive only with continued aid from Russia. Any rift between Russia and the East European satellites would create an economic as well as a political drain on Russia, and might impair Russia's aid to Red China.

Politically, the "ultimate victory" of Communism requires real unity in the Communist camp. Too much satellite independence weakens the world Communist movement, and may delay its final victory. This is just as important to Peiping as it is to Moscow.

Questions Survival

Finally, it may be a question of survival. Russia and the world Communist movement are in real trouble as a result of internal unrest—not only in the satellites, but in Russia and Red China themselves. This analysis is supported by reports of mass arrests during January in China and of student protests in Russia, followed by a grass-roots handshaking tour of Russia by the Kremlin's top leadership late in January.

Because of all this unrest in the Communist world, these observers believe, both Peiping and Moscow are alarmed. They feel they must "crack down" now before dissatisfaction gets out of hand. Chou's trip was part of this campaign.

Red China's outspoken new role challenges the United States with several urgent questions, such as these:

1. Does Red China's partnership with Russia on a newly global basis create a united, powerful and hence more dangerous world Communist bloc? Can the U. S. do anything to weaken the Moscow-Peiping axis?

2. Has Russian aggression in Hungary, and Red China's support of it, seriously damaged the prestige of these two nations in "neutralist" Asia, Africa and the Middle East? If so, how can the U. S. capitalize on this situation?

3. If Russian and Red Chinese tactics during the last few months have successfully converted the weakness of satellite revolts into the strength of world Communist unity, how will this new situation affect future American policies?

Involved in the answers to these key questions are such U.S. policies as recognition of Red China, seating of Red China in the UN, military and economic aid to nations on the Communist borders, and aid and encouragement to "independence" movements in Eastern Europe.

Stalin Bandwagon

Red China's Premier Chou En-lai jumped on the "back to Stalin" bandwagon during his January visit to Moscow, and, some believe, helped the Kremlin reverse a trend of the past two years.

"De-Stalinization" had started at the 20th Communist party congress in Moscow in February, 1955. Unexpectedly, Party First Secretary Nikita S. Khrushchev denounced former dictator Stalin for a host of misdeeds.

Quickly the downgrading of Stalin became fashionable throughout the Communist world, and anti-Stalin Communists who had been-hanged or imprisoned were "rehabilitated."

Cautiously Attacked

De-Stalinization in China, however, never went quite so far as in other countries. Although Stalin was cautiously attacked in the party press, early in the campaign to discredit the ex-leader Chinese party officials recalled Stalin's "indelible achievements."

In the opinion of many students of the situation, the anti-Stalin campaign led inevitably to the unrest which plagued the Communists in Poland, Hungary and possibly inside Russia itself. It was as if the safety valve had been opened and could not be closed again.

Since November Russian leaders have appeared to be closing the safety valve, returning to praise of Stalin. At Chou's Moscow reception in January, Khrushchev called Stalin "an example of a good Communist." Chou vigorously applauded the new Khrushchev line.

It has been suggested that Red China may be friendly to the memory of Stalin, who had been denounced as leader of a "cult of personality," because Peiping has its own "personality" problem. Mao Tse-tung, head of the Chinese Communist government, has been glorified in China somewhat as Stalin once was in Russia.

In any event, observers agree that firm control of future unrest is important to leaders in both Moscow and Peiping. If current trends are a key to the future, Russia and Red China will be working hand in hand around the globe in 1957 to present a united Communist front to the rest of the world.

Jobholder Number Dips By 1,660,000 During January

Washington —(U.P.)— The number of American jobholders dropped by 1,660,000 in January, the government reported today.

The number of jobholders in January stood at 62,890,000 and the number of unemployed at 2,940,000. These were approximately the same levels as in January, 1956.

This marked the first time since March, 1955, that the number of jobholders for one month did not show a gain over the same month of the previous year.

Farm Jobs Blamed

The Commerce and Labor departments said failure of the employment total to show an increase over January, 1956, was due to "the substantially lower level of farm employment." Total non-farm employment also declined sharply between December and January but was still a record high level for the month.

The departments said the 1,660,000 December to January decline was due to sharp post-Christmas cutbacks in retail trade and postal service, large declines in construction and other outdoor work due to "abnormally severe weather" and also to a larger than usual decline in factory jobs.

Refinancing of Federal Debt Seen

Washington — (U.P.) — The Treasury reported today it has been moderately successful in refinancing $10.7 billion of the government debt which falls due shortly.

It did so, it said, by offering the highest interest rates on short term securities since the depression days of 1933.

The Treasury said it has exchanged nearly $9.9 billion in maturing securities for new issues, leaving about $875 million or 8 per cent, to be redeemed in cash.

The government's over all debt is $275 billion, but only $10.7 billion of it must be refinanced at this time.

Treasury officials conceded that the cash demand on maturing issues was slightly higher than had been expected. Many holders of the securities, they said, apparently want cash to pay their income taxes.

The government's cash balance on Tuesday was $1.6 billion, slightly lower than normal. One official said the $875 million remaining to be paid will be a "pretty substantial drain" on the balance.

But he said it still is "too early to tell" whether the government will have to issue new securities to cover it.

Bond Issue Defeated For Josephine School

Grants Pass—A $800,000 bond issue proposed to finance construction of a new high school in the Josephine county-unit school district was defeated here Wednesday by a 1,361 to 840 vote, according to unofficial district tabulations.

Defeat of the bond issue means the district will continue its tuition agreement with district 7, Grants Pass, under which some 630 students living in the county district currently attend Grants Pass schools.

This was the second recent bond issue held in the county, one being defeated and the other being approved by district 7 voters to finance construction of a new junior high school.

The district board is expected to take some action on the matter Monday, according to County Superintendent Elmer Fleming. There probably will be an informal agreement that the county-district board will extend its contract with district 7, he said.

SOC Students Attend Legislative Seminar

Ashland — Six students from Southern Oregon college attended a two-day legislative seminar Thursday and Friday at Willamette university in Salem. Dr. Marshall Woodell, professor of social science at SOC, accompanied the group.

The seminar meets every two years when the Oregon state legislature convenes. Seminar representatives visited legislative sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Committee meetings of both houses also were attended.

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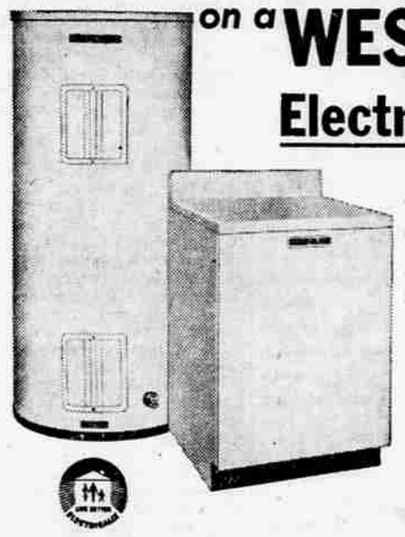

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