

Russia, Red China Clash In Ideals But Share America As Top Enemy

By JOHN STROHM

NEW YORK (NEA) — Russia and Red China seem to be headed down two different roads toward communism, but their No. 1 goal and enemy is the same, the United States.

Both of them tutor their people to hate America as the chief obstacle in the path of a "perfect" Communist world. Both use this hate to prod their regimented people to catch up with the capitalist

rival. Where the Red rivals take different paths is in defining the Communist Utopia they hope to reach after all their Five Year Plans and Great Leaps Forward.

China is rushing toward communal living, eating and wages. Russia is edging more and more toward profit and private ownership.

One who travels as I did, first through the Soviet Union, then

through Red China, sees increasing signs of rivalry between Moscow and Peking. One cannot talk to hundreds of persons behind the iron and bamboo curtains without a feeling that eventually this paradoxical rivalry may lead to basic schism in the Red world.

Two crises rocked the Communist world at the time of my visits late this summer and fall. The first involved Russia and China. While I sought assistance from the Russian Foreign Office to get a visa for Red China, Nikita Khrushchev was having to fly to Peiping secretly to patch up relations with Mao Tse-tung. Mao reportedly was misled by Khrushchev's call for a summit meeting which did not include the People's Republic of China on the guest list.

Now I am able to understand why nothing came of this application and why I finally had to go directly to the Chinese Reds to get admitted. Khrushchev didn't want an American reporter under foot in Peiping.

By the time I reached China the second crisis was in full flower. Although it stems from Red artillery attacks upon the off-shore islands, Quemoy and Matsu, there seems no doubt in any Red Chinese mind that the other party to this crisis is not Chiang Kai-shek but Uncle Sam.

I have told the Red China story in earlier dispatches to this newspaper. Now, against the background of my observations in Mao's China, I am able to set down my observations in revisiting areas of Russia which I had seen in 1946 as the first American correspondent to tour the Russian hinterland after World War II.

One impression of Russia after a dozen years is that there are many changes that to American eyes appear favorable.

There's more freedom to talk, less fear of secret police and Siberian exile.

Almost every time I walked out of my hotel in Moscow I was stopped by college students who wanted to talk "about America." When I reminded them I was what the Soviet press calls a "warmonger," they grinned and said: "Oh, that's just politics."

The Russians seem more realistic and less dogmatic than before. Unlike the Chinese, they seem to be drifting away from the aims of communism as defined by Karl Marx. Their state capitalism today features strong incentives and wide variations in economic rewards.

"We're operating more on economic fact today, less on political theory," an official told me. An American translates this into a trend toward the profit system.

Peiping, on the contrary, seems to pride itself on its pure, doctrinaire communism. Mao sees himself as the true apostle of Lenin. "We are learning from Russian mistakes," the Chinese said.

Agriculture in Russia is far better shape than it was 12 years ago. That means more food and better clothing at lower prices. (Historians tell us comfortable people are less war-minded than miserable ones.)

In 1946 I priced butter at \$8 a pound; today it's \$1.25. Bologna was \$12 a pound; now it's \$1. People in the cities dress better. Fewer farm folk are barefoot. Leather shoes, \$80 a pair in 1946, now sell for \$35 and \$50.

City dwellers still share dingy kitchens and bathrooms with other families. They eye the apartment boom and hope their turn will come soon for low rent and a measure of privacy.

Russian agriculture is heavily mechanized; China still depends upon human muscle. Direct food and dress comparisons are impossible because the Russians and Chinese live so differently. But the Russians eat and dress on a scale that would be luxurious to a Chinese.

The new apartment housing in both Russia and China is far superior to the old, but would rate as substandard in any American city. There's more of almost everything in Russia today.

Ivan can shop for a small automobile if he has \$3,000. Or for a bicycle if he has \$60. His wife can wear silk at \$10 a yard or hose at \$3.50 a pair. She can wear lipstick, once looked upon as a bourgeois affectation.

In China there is not a single privately owned automobile. Lipstick is considered a capitalistic frivolity.

There's a trickle of consumer goods in Russia — in 1956 214,000 refrigerators, 193,000 washing machines and 162,000 vacuum cleaners were turned out for this nation of 200 million.

There are more schools, more hotels, more traffic, more doctors, more books, more stores. Above all, more confidence. In some quarters there is a cockiness born of Russia's first Sputnik. It leads to a faith that the Soviet system

eventually will pay off in more good things for the people, a belief much strengthened since Stalin's death.

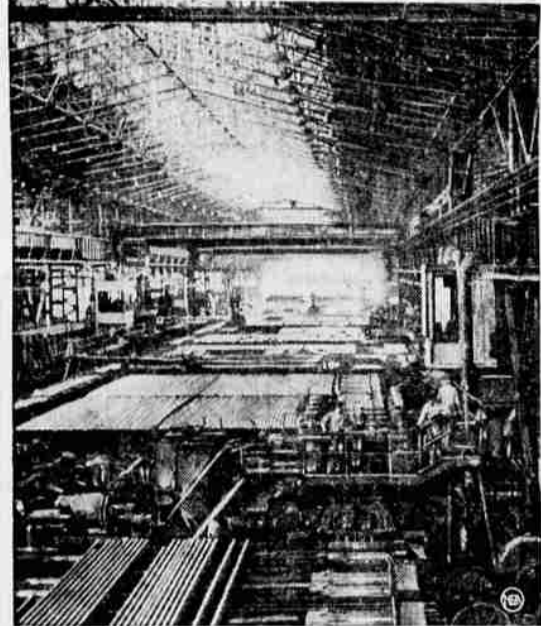
But the longer you stay in Russia the more you are impressed with some basic things that have not changed since 1946.

For example, both farm and city folk with whom I talked still hate war with the passion of those who have experienced invasion. And yet I'd guess 90 per cent fear the

U.S. may start a new war. Time and again peasant women, with reproachful tears, asked me: "Why does your country want to make war on us?"

Truth to a Soviet citizen is a far cry from the truth we know as Americans. The Russian only knows what his leaders want him to know about the outside world. Much they are told sounds like fantastic falsehood to an American. They are constantly told

Americans live in capitalistic slavery while Russians are headed for a Socialist Utopia. These falsehoods booby-trap the road to better understanding between the Russian and American people. I saw many improvements in the living conditions of Russians but no sign that Utopia is around the corner. After 40 years of communism, Russia's standard of living is lower than that of tiny neighbor Finland. Needs of the people still run poor second to the demands of the state.



GREAT NEW ROLLING MILL at Anchan makes a sharp contrast to backyard blast furnaces, symbolizes Red China's hopes of producing 20 million tons of steel next year.



PAIR OF SHOES is tried on by Russian collective farm worker whose cash wages are 6 rubles per labor day. Shoes clerk holds sell for 300 rubles—near \$30.



"DRIVE AMERICA OUT" of Formosa is message on these posters above a bust of Mao Tse-tung in a Red China commune hall.



THE CHEVROLADY OF THE MONTH was chosen by drawing a lucky number out of a hat. Charlie Bane, President of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, is shown drawing the name of Mrs. George C. Birtwhistle of Tulelake, as George Dugan and Bob Mast look on. Mrs. Birtwhistle and her husband will be the guests of HAROLD'S CLUB and HAROLD'S Pony Express Motel in Reno for a gala weekend sometime this



BACKYARD BLAST FURNACES like this one up the Yangtze from Nanking, polka-dot Red China's 1958 landscape in farmyards, on school playgrounds and vacant lots.



CITY OF STALINGRAD, which was a scene of terrible destruction when Strohm visited Russia 12 years ago, had been almost completely rebuilt when he returned this year.

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Prince, Fiancee Play Love Match

TOKYO (AP) — Crown Prince Akihito teamed up with his pretty fiancee in a mixed doubles tennis exhibition Saturday. It obviously was a love match even though play stopped with score 3-3.

Akihito and Miss Michiko Shoda, both 24, were making their first public appearance together since their engagement was announced nine days ago. Akihito met on a tennis court the girl who will become Japan's first commoner empress.

Party Requests Red Admission

SASKATOON, Sask. (AP) — A resolution asking the Canadian government to recognize Communist China was adopted by the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union Friday at its convention. The 400 delegates urged Canada to extend long-term credit to the Red Chinese "in order to build up a market for Canadian goods there."

Sheriffs Elect New President

PORTLAND (AP) — Josephine County Sheriff Lloyd Lewis was elected president of the Oregon state Sheriff's Assn. at its final convention session Friday. Lewis replaces John Elfering of Malheur County. Forrest C. Sholes, Deschutes County, was named vice president and Charles Strawn, Coos County, secretary-treasurer.

The sheriffs voted to propose a work-release law that would allow county jail prisoners to hold private employment to keep their families off relief rolls. This legislation also would help with the rehabilitation of the prisoners, the sheriffs reported.

QUITE SO
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A marquee at a drive-in movie here advertised this double feature: "I Married a Monster"—"The Blob."

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