

## COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE TEST BAN ACCORD

Khrushchev in his 26 July interview with Pravda and Izvestia correspondents on the nuclear test ban agreement made clear his intention to engage the West in serious discussions on a wider range of issues. Subsequent Soviet commentary has characterized the final communiqué, in which the US and UK agreed to consult with their allies on the question of a nonaggression pact, as a commitment to further talks.

The Soviet leader is disregarding Peiping's open defiance and, indeed, appears to have made endorsement of the agreement a key test for world Communist support of his policies toward the West. Soviet propaganda is carefully listing all the major powers which have approved the test ban agreement and links the Chinese Communist leadership with De Gaulle and "reactionary madmen" in the US Congress who are opposed to the "universal appeal" for an end to the nuclear arms race.

Khrushchev has moved quickly to represent the agreement as a success for his policies toward the West and to exploit fears of Peiping's own nuclear ambitions in an effort to force Communist China into a more isolated position internationally.

Peiping, clearly on the defensive, has counterattacked with angry propaganda designed to blacken the USSR before the world Communist movement. The chief theme of a major Chinese government statement issued on 31 July was that Moscow has sold out to "imperialism" and perpetrated a "dirty fraud." The statement repeated earlier charges that the treaty in no way reduces the US war-making potential but is aimed mainly at "preventing non-nuclear, peace-loving countries from testing and manufacturing nuclear weapons."

The statement accused the USSR of conspiring with the US against Communist China. Earlier, People's Daily had published a picture of Khrushchev about to embrace Harriman, with an accompanying story in which Khrushchev was quoted by Harriman as saying he had wanted a treaty at this time to show the Chinese that it was possible to coexist peacefully.

The perfidy of the Soviets in reversing themselves on the question of nuclear testing has been heavily attacked in the Chinese press. People's Daily on 29 July published the texts of both the current treaty and the similar version Moscow rejected last August. In the past week many statements made from

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The Communist World

1960 to 1962 by Khrushchev and the Soviet Government opposing a partial test ban treaty have been republished in the Chinese press.

Peiping is also insisting defiantly on its right to conduct nuclear tests, which it now implies will occur soon. In a blustering speech on 26 July, Peiping's chief propagandist Kuo Mo-jo declared that no modern weapons are "out of reach of the people" and that the nuclear monopoly of a few powers "can by no means remain for long." An Indonesian air delegation that left Peiping on 27 July was reportedly told that China would explode its first nuclear bomb in October 1963. Such claims

contrast with earlier Chinese Communist statements which generally stressed that it would be a long time before China, with its backward technology, developed nuclear weapons.

Peiping now appears concerned about laying the groundwork for the day when it will have to justify its own nuclear tests. Presumably this was the real reason for its advocacy on 31 July of a total prohibition of nuclear weapons. Expecting that such an unrealistic proposal would be rejected, Peiping could still pose as a champion of peace and at the same time argue that it had no choice but to proceed with the development of its own nuclear capability.

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