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### SOVIET AIMS IN MANCHURIA

Soviet efforts to gain military and economic control over Manchuria have been motivated by Soviet ambitions to become a dominant power in the Pacific and by the realization of Manchuria's strategic protecting position in relation to eastern Siberia. Overall Soviet strategy is based upon the maintenance of a separate military establishment in the Far East which, even during World War II, was kept at full strength. Largely to provide support for this separate military establishment, Soviet leaders have given high priority to the development of the economic self-sufficiency of the Soviet Far Eastern areas. Control over Manchuria will also shorten the Moscow-Vladivostock railroad route by seven hundred miles and provide the USSR with a year-round, warm-water port for the development of naval power and commerce in the Pacific. Moreover, Manchurian raw materials can be used to supply industries in west Siberia and the Soviet Far East, to acquire foreign exchange, and eventually to exert strong economic pressure on Japan, North Korea, and China.

The USSR is now in an excellent position to exploit Manchuria's great military and economic potential. Under the terms of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1945 (concluded with the National Government), the USSR legally acquired extensive extraterritorial rights in Manchuria and joint ownership with China of the Changchun railway. The Chinese Communists, in publicly endorsing the special position of the USSR in Manchuria recently, hailed it as being in the best interests of the Chinese people and as a protection against "american imperialism." After the Communist capture of Peiping, the Chinese Communist Party transferred its headquarters and top personnel from Manchuria. Although the Chinese Communists have established a government in Manchuria, it is

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subservient to Soviet "advisers." The recent conclusion of a Soviet-Manchurian trade agreement gave de facto Soviet recognition to the Manchurian Communist regime and officially established a precedent for direct Soviet-Manchurian relations. Presumably in an attempt to conceal the conflict between the special Soviet position and Chinese sovereign rights in Manchuria, the Chinese Communists have acclaimed the pact as evidence of Soviet friendship and a forerunner of Soviet assistance in industrializing China.

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