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F A R E A S T



Sino-Soviet Pact By concluding an ostensibly benevolent treaty with the Chinese Communists, the USSR has obtained a three-year period of grace in which to tighten its grip on Communist China. The treaty will at once confute the "imperialists" outside China and conciliate internal opposition to the Communist regime. By not immediately relinquishing control over Dairen, Port Arthur, and the Manchurian railways, however, the USSR will maintain control of strategic assets in China, while continuing to advance the process by which Soviet influence in China becomes Soviet control. The USSR can be expected to gradually strengthen its grip on the Chinese Communist Party apparatus, on the armed forces, on the secret police, and on communications and informational media. One immediate result of the treaty will be the strengthening of the Stalinist faction of the Chinese Communist Party for action against the rather sizeable bloc of nationalistic Chinese Communists.

