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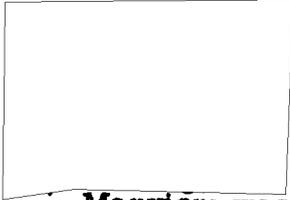


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7. INDONESIAN PRESIDENT'S IMPRESSIONS OF SINO-SOVIET BLOC

Comment on:



Foreign Minister Abdulgani, who accompanied President Sukarno on a seven-week tour of the Sino-Soviet bloc, told the American ambassador in Djakarta that the president believed

Marxism was "really working" in Communist China. Sukarno and most members of his entourage were more impressed generally with Communist China than by the Soviet Union. In Yugoslavia, Sukarno was intrigued by that government's ability to obtain aid from both East and West.

Sukarno will probably make public his impressions of bloc countries and their application to Indonesia when he addresses the Constituent Assembly, which he hopes to convene on 10 November. He has frequently stated that Indonesia can borrow profitably from both blocs in writing a constitution and in charting its economic philosophy. His sympathy for Marxism, now reinforced by his favorable impressions of Communist China, may lead him to advise even more strongly than heretofore a socialized economy and a highly centralized government. He will probably endorse increased relations in all fields with bloc countries and particularly with Communist China.

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