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EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 13526 3.5(c)

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Middle East War Fuels Sino-Soviet Polemics

The war in the Middle East has provided the USSR with a two-edged propaganda sword to be brandished against the Chinese. The Soviets, on the one hand, have blasted Peking for being unable to provide the Arabs with the kind of materiel support that Moscow has sent to its Arab clients. On the other hand, Moscow has accused the Chinese of obstructing peace in the Middle East by not joining Security Council efforts to secure a cease-fire and promote a political settlement. *Pravda* has charged that the Chinese are in effect "playing into the Israelis' hand."

The Chinese have primarily played up the propaganda theme that the superpowers have worked together to suppress the Arab struggle, and, as usual, the Soviets have taken the brunt of Peking's criticism. The Chinese have charged the Soviets with stifling the Arab struggle in favor of Moscow's selfish interests and with allowing the Israelis to "hang their swords over the heads of the Arab peoples." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Chinese UN representatives, meanwhile, have played up the allegation that the superpowers have used the Security Council to "rubber-stamp" their joint resolutions. They have also labeled the UN peace-keeping force as an instrument of the superpowers for "further international intervention and control in the Middle East." Stung by Peking's charges regarding the "dark designs of the two superpowers," the Soviets have accused the Chinese of demanding the "continuation of war" and trying to alienate the Arabs from their main source of aid.

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Clearly, the Arab-Israeli war has provided another major international question that finds the Soviets and the Chinese on opposite sides. In the past, Soviet aid efforts on behalf of India and Iraq have been countered by Chinese demonstrations of friendship toward them. Similarly, Soviet negotiations for force reductions in the West and security in Europe have elicited Chinese warnings of dealing with the perfidious Russians. Peking's tactics have nettled the Soviets and, despite the massive Soviet support and the limited Chinese capabilities in the present situation, Peking may again find some takers for its line.

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*Soviet Developments*



~~Top Secret~~

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