

NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUN

China's Arms

Cause Alarm

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President Johnson's foreign policy advisers are urging him to make a sweeping reappraisal of policies to deal with what they describe as "the increase of Red China's power in Asia and the potential spread of nuclear weapons."

Headed by Secretaries Rusk and McNamara and UN Ambassador Goldberg, the policy formulators are calling for a critical assessment of military alliances in both West and East, including revising NATO as one of the first steps toward greater Soviet-Western cooperation.

In some of the boldest and most controversial proposals to be made in the White House in recent years, this group, which includes Ambassador - at-Large Llewellyn Thompson, Undersecretary George Ball and Dr. Walt Rostow, chairman of the State Department's Policy Planning Council, wants the President through either negotiations or military action to curb Peiping's capabilities to produce nuclear weapons and wage "wars of liberation."

They warn that while Red China's immediate intentions in Southeast Asia might be a matter for debate, it is certain Peiping, within five years, will have the potentiality to upset the strategic balance of the world through "nuclear blackmail."

Moreover, if the growth of Communist China as a nuclear military power increases the uncontrolled spread of such weapons throughout the world, the danger of nuclear war would immensely intensify.

In one backstage briefing of a small handpicked group, Secretary Rusk warned that Red China is preparing its third nuclear blast in "a matter of weeks," and is scheduled to produce its first H-bomb by the end of 1966.

Aides of Rusk indicated, at the briefing, that this information came from "sources on the China mainland" through diplomatic channels.

Veteran CIA authorities, who obtained the same information, are cautioning that it emanated from "known Communists" — a fact Rusk's assistants did not mention.

The crucial question the President's advisers are posing is forming a secret alliance with Russia to use a "carrot and stick" policy on Peiping to restrain what they call a "nervous and undernourished dragon."

According to their position pa-

pers, the first step for the U.S. might be to accept what they refer to as "the realities of Chinese power and draw or force the Peiping government into international negotiations."

The rating of Communist China and the spread of nuclear weapons, rather than Russia, as the principal problem facing the U.S. is being opposed by military, intelligence and congressional advisers of the President.

This group, which includes CIA Director Raborn, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Speaker John McCormack, D-Mass., and Senators Richard Russell, D-Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Thomas Dodd, D-Conn., is cautioning against a secret alliance with the Kremlin on the ground it is still Moscow policy to "destroy the U.S."

These officials warn that involvement in a war on the China mainland could be a Soviet trap to lure U.S. military manpower into an abyss while freeing the Kremlin to wage "wars of liberation in Africa and Latin America."

In talks with the President, these advisers have pointed out that despite their public denunciations of each other, Peiping and Moscow are supplying arms to North Viet Nam and advising Hanoi on how to combat American forces in South Viet Nam.

If a deep split really existed between Peiping and Moscow, they stress, the U.S. could stand on the sideline and encourage the two Communist powers to go after each other rather than side with one or the other.

As the Viet Nam conflict continues, this sharp dispute between the two groups of powerful presidential advisers is very likely to intensify.

The Raborn-Joint Chiefs-Russell-Dodd-McCormack group favors a tougher policy in Viet Nam, including a naval blockade if necessary—to bring Hanoi to the conference table.

The Rusk - McNamara - Goldberg - Thompson - Ball-Rostow faction is suggesting the need for a "controlled confrontation" with Communist China whether it be at the conference table or on the battlefield, and even if it means making concessions to Hanoi and Moscow on Viet Nam.

They are asking President Johnson to "trust" Russia to help bring this off, although the U.S. would be telling the world the U.S. is the aggressor in Viet Nam.