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March 1, 1950
Sino-Soviet Friendship Is Indestructible

On the occasion of the signing of the Sino-Soviet treaty and agreements, Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai pointed out: "I believe that our treaty and agreements will be supported not only by the peoples of China and the Soviet Union but also by progressive mankind throughout the world, while they will be regarded with enmity only by the imperialists and warmongers."

World reaction to the epoch-making treaty and agreements has fully confirmed the predictions made by Premier Chou. There has been joy and jubilation on the part of the Chinese and Soviet peoples, the awakened labouring people throughout the world and all those who are devoted to the just cause of world peace. But there have been wailings, cries of horror and much 'whistling in the dark' on the part of all imperialists and warmongers.

It is only natural that the warmongers, headed by the American imperialists, are enraged by the Sino-Soviet treaty and agreements.

Ever since the Chinese people drove Chiang Kai-shek's regime from China's mainland, the American imperialists have been forced to rely increasingly on their schemes for driving a wedge between China and the Soviet Union. To date, at least, this apparently remains one of the main strategies they could think of in regard to China.

As far back as August 5, 1949, when the White Paper was published, the United States government officially circulated the rumour that the Soviet Union was trying to dominate China.

Then on January 12th this year, Dean Acheson said: "The Soviet Union is detaching northern areas of China from China, and is attaching them to the Soviet Union."

The signing of the Sino-Soviet treaty and the various agreements reached in Moscow has shown the world the falsity of the American government's malicious remark. It has also demonstrated the futility of the State Department's latest policy of trying to stir up ill-will between the two neighbouring peoples.

The generous friendship that the Soviet Union had demonstrated in these agreements will prove a limitless source of inspiration and encouragement to the Chinese people. Today the average Chinese citizen can understand more clearly than ever before the true character of the Soviet Union and of its policies, which are based on international co-operation among the labouring peoples of the world. Not only the Chinese people, but the ordinary peoples of all lands and especially the oppressed peoples of Asia, find inspiration in the entirely adequate and unselfish assistance which the U.S.S.R. is extending to China — assistance which the Soviet Union stands ready to extend to all oppressed peoples in their struggle for liberation.

The practical effect of the treaty and agreements is so great and obvious that U.S. Senator Homer Ferguson, that staunch partisan of the imperialist camp, could not but admit: "This alliance struck serious blows to our (American) position in Asia." (as quoted by United Press in a dispatch dated Washington, February 16th)

In view of the facts, there is not much the American government can do except revive its old wives' tale about "Soviet encroachments" and "Chinese enslavement." Washington has had to content itself with muttering in bad grace about hidden loopholes.

The shameless remark by Acheson on Feb. 16th in connection with the Sino-Soviet treaty and agreements, can be taken as the model for imperialist strategy in dealing with this problem. Because no weak spot can be found in the treaty, Acheson can only resort to the lowest of tricks by saying: "The world does not know the story of the whole treaty." Thus he insinuates that there are secret protocols. The U.S. propaganda organs are making pitiful efforts to follow up Acheson's cue. USIS, the organ of the State Department, even sank so low as to disseminate the following quotation from the New York Herald Tribune:

"The published agreements are obviously the upper visible part of this iceberg, of which the important seven-eighths is still hidden in the depths. The rest of it may be written down in secret protocols, or may exist in nothing more substantial than fleeting words and tacit understandings recorded only by the silent walls of the Kremlin."
Let the Imperialists Tremble!
Chien Chun-jui

A world-shaking event has just taken place. It is a bolt from the blue—for the imperialists. It has frightened the wits out of Harry Truman and Dean Acheson. It has once again jarred the much-ballyhooed generalist system to its foundations.

This event is none other than the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union—an event which inaugurates a new era in the history of friendly relations between these two nations.

In the long years before the October Revolution, the common people in both old Russia and old China lived a servile existence under the yoke of imperialism. Russia was in general ruled by savage, feudalistic landlords whose interest lay in seeing democracy and inciting national hatreds among their people. At the turn of the 19th century, Tsarist Russia embarked upon a long period of aggressive expansion into China. During those dark days, although there was no conflict of interest between the Russian and the Chinese people, they were submerged in a whirlpool of intrigations and trouble-making on the part of the reactionary ruling classes in both countries. Thus, these two peoples were prevented from realizing the true nature of such complex situations. At the time of the Boxer Uprising, Lenin observed:

"The people of China have no hatred for the people of Europe, because there is no conflict whatsoever between them. What they hate are the capitalist governments of Europe that are in the service of those capitalists."* 

Further describing the relationship between the peoples of China and Russia, he said:

"The people of China have never, under any circumstances, liked the Russians; they themselves suffer from the oppression of an Asiatic-type of government which squeezes tributes and taxes out of the starving peasants and suppresses by force all who fight for freedom; they also suffer from the oppression of capitalism—which has already penetrated into China."

Condemning the aggression of the Tsarist Government, Lenin noted: "The policy of the Tsarist Government in China is a criminal one."* 

Chien called upon the workers to "oppose with all their strength those similar acts on the part of the imperialist elements, and to denounce the behaviour of the Russian and Chinese peoples." (The Chinese War)

The 1911 Revolution inspired the Russian proletariat with unlimited sympathy and admiration for the Chinese people. A special resolution was adopted with reference to the Chinese Revolution at the Second Congress of the Bolshevik Party in January, 1912. It pointed out that: "the revolutionary struggle in China will lead to national liberation, thereby destroying the rule of the European bourgeoisie." It further stated that: "the Russian proletariat will watch the success of the revolutionary Chinese people with sincere enthusiasm and full sympathy and denounce the behaviour of the Russian liberals in support of the aggressive policy of Tsarism."

At that time, Lenin hailed the Chinese people as "a truly great people." He said: "This means that not only must the Chinese people struggle for themselves, but also that they must help the long suffering peoples of the world, that they must fight for freedom."

As mentioned above, the reactionary ruling class was then engrossed at home in the oppression of the people, and abroad in their encroachment upon or betrayal of neighbouring states. It relentlessly sowed dissension and incited national hatreds, thus preventing the Russian and Chinese people from freely developing their friendship. Only the just awakening Russian proletariat were able to perceive the true character of their relations with their Chinese friends, and they evinced deep and militant friendship for the Chinese people. Such, in brief, were the fundamental characteristics of the relationship existing between the two countries in the dark days before the October Revolution.

The October Revolution basically altered that relationship in one respect. After 1917, when the Russian labouring people became masters in their own country, they found it possible to express freely and fully the friendship which they had long cherished for the Chinese people and, through their government, to give to the movement and material support that it so needed. Soon after the Soviet Government voluntarily gave up all imperialistic privileges in China which had been acquired by Tsarist Russia. In July, 1919, the Soviet Government issued a statement on China in which it said:

*All quotations in this article, unless otherwise stated, are translated from Chinese texts.
"We are marching to free the people of the yoke of the military force of foreign money which is crushing the life of the people of the East, and primarily the people of China. We are not only bringing help to our working classes, but also to the Chinese people."

After incessant effort, the Soviet Union eventually concluded a Sino-Soviet Agreement in 1924 with the regime under the Northern Warlords in which all the privileges in China were restored to Russia were abrogated. The Soviet Union also extended ideological, moral and material assistance to China's anti-imperialist movement, helping to flower into the great anti-imperialist upsurge of 1925-1927. Later Chiang K'ai-shek betrayed this revolution. But in spite of the fact that Chiang threw Soviet assistance overboard, he, on the way for Japan's bold aggression, the Soviet people insisted in offering their friendship to China. The Soviet Union warned Japan shortly after the Mukden Incident that it "is entirely in sympathy with China, morally, spiritually and emotionally and will make all necessary efforts to help her." A month after Japan's all-out invasion of China in July, 1937, the Soviet Consul General in Shanghai, also proclaimed: "Sino-Soviet friendship and non-aggression pact with China. This was followed up with a large number of aeroplanes, heavy artillery, air force personnel and military personnel credits. Notwithstanding this help, Chiang K'ai-shek put up only feeble resistance against the enemy. He later sacrificed Soviet friendship once more and plunged headlong into anti-communist campaigns of unprecedented ferocity. This led to tremendous difficulties in waging war against Japan.

However, the Soviet Union continued to demonstrate the same friendly attitude towards the Chinese people. In August, 1937, when the Red Army had annihilated the German fascist, the Soviet Union despatched troops to Manchuria and went out on a mission upon Japanese troops committing the main strength and carrying out anti-communist measures. This forced the Japanese imperialists to surrender unconditionally. On the 14th of the same month, a Sino-Soviet Treaty on military cooperation was signed which stipulated that the two powers should take common action to prevent the resurgence of Japanese aggression. But Chiang K'ai-shek, bent on throwing himself into the lap of the United States, once again turned his back on Soviet friendship and launched a large-scale civil war against the Communists and the people.

To understand the true foundation of this warm Soviet friendship for the Chinese people, we need only refer to the classic statement made by the great Stalin in 1925:

"Truth and justice are entirely on the side of the Chinese Revolution. We sympathise with the Chinese Revolution. Both now and in the future, we do and shall continue to sympathise with the struggle of the Chinese people to liberate themselves from the yoke of imperialists and to unite China into an integral nation."

The October Revolution opened the eyes of the Chinese people, put into their hands a key to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, and helped them organize the Chinese Communist Party, a loyal and most loyal leader. As a result of Soviet assistance and Communist Party leadership, the Chinese labouring people received tremendous enthusiasm for the socialist Soviet Union. Virtually all Chinese workers and peasants, together with the advanced intelligentsia, came to love and look up to the Soviet Union during the civil war when the Chinese communists announced their decision to establish formal diplomatic relations with China. The Soviet Union also despatched a Cultural Delegation to China as well as Soviet experts, who have given a selfless devotion to the task of assisting us in our economic and cultural rehabilitation work. In the first four months of its existence, the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association attracted more than 200,000 members. Soviet films, photographs, stage plays and musical performances have been enthusiastically welcomed by the people of new China.

Yet it was only in the resistance bases led by the Communist Party that the people were fully able to express their love and gratitude for the Soviet Union. For Stalin's 60th birthday, Chairman Mao Tse-tung voiced their sentiments perfectly in offering his greetings at the celebration meeting where he said:

"The victorious outcome of Stalin's work has enabled us to use aeroplanes, guns, airmen and military advisors in various combat zones, as well as with loans. What other country in the world has helped China in this way? What other country, led by what other class, what other party, what other person, has helped us in this way? Who else but the Soviet Union, the proletariat, the Communist Party and Stalin?"

Chairman Mao added:

"The Chinese people will never forget all these friendly acts on the part of the Soviet Union."

In regions controlled by the reactionary Kuomintang regime, these sentiments of the Chinese people would not have been so long, heroic and arduous struggle for their own liberation and for democracy and peace. Truth and justice are on our side. As Andrei Vyshinsky said, the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance and the Sino-Soviet Friendship Union is "the biggest contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and democracy throughout the world."

Second, this is because Sino-Soviet friendship is based on the fact that the two peoples are both masters of their own lands. Hence, it is a genuine friendship between the peoples themselves—a friendship capable of full expression and further growth, which will create a new spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance and, in turn, will strengthen the friendship between China and the Soviet Union.

Finally, this is because the great Sino-Soviet friendship represents an impregnable force in the struggle against the U.S.S.R., which are geographically separated from the countries in the world, and they possess the world's richest natural resources. The two countries have a combined population of nearly 700,000,000 brave, intelligent and hard-working people, who have stood up against the aggressors of one and the same kind of enemy. The Chinese people, long reared and steeped in the doctrines of Marxism-Leninism and the principles of the world, today is leading the way for a great political revolution and social transformation in the world. The Sino-Soviet friendship has matured Bolshevik Communist Parties, and has the greatest leaders in Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. They are defended by the invincible Red Army and the People's Liberation Army, which fully understand their glorious mission. And now these two great nations have merged themselves into an alliance of friendship. The Treaty which they have just signed formally provides:"

"Both contracting parties undertake jointly to adopt measures and employ all possible means and means to which they can be applied to the purpose of preventing the resumption of aggression and violation of peace on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate with Japan directly or indirectly in acts of aggression. In the event of any such new aggression being launched by Japan or any state allied with it, and thus being involved in a state of war, the other contracting party will immediately render military and other assistance in accordance with this treaty."

What solidarity this is! What noble friendship this is! What great force this is!

Let the imperialists and all their lackeys tremble before this uncomparable brotherly alliance! Lately, the American imperialists have made special efforts to carry out their key strategy of under-mining the friendship between China and the Soviet Union. Now, obviously, they have undergone a severe defeat in front of the people of the world. But the Chinese people, the Soviet people and all people the world over have gained a great victory in the struggle for the peace and the peace-loving and democratic camp has been further strengthened as a result of the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance and the Sino-Soviet Friendship Union. Peace and democracy in every corner of the world will have obtained new safeguards and new strength so that, strategically, they can defeat the imperialist scarecrows and courageously and cautiously knock them over.
Five Weeks With The Soviet Cultural Delegation in China

Emi Siao (Siao San)

Last October, just at the time the Soviet Cultural Delegation came to China upon the joint invitation of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and the China Conference for Defending World Peace, the People's Republic of China was born and the People's Central Government was formally inaugurated. And the day after their arrival in Peking, diplomatic relations between China and the Soviet Union were established. The equality and friendship—all this has served to enhance the historical significance of their mission to China.

Harbin — Muden — Tientsin — Peking — Nanking — Shanghai — Tsinian Tientsin — Peking — Muden — Harbin — this was the itinerary of the Soviet cultural workers during their five-week tour in China. Whenever they appeared before the people, their train was overwhelmingly welcomed and echoed with loud cheers. Wherever they arrived, it was a day of festivity for the masses of that locality. A sincere, earnest and warm friendship flooded every meeting, in the open air or indoors; it was on everybody's face, the guests' or the hosts'; and it overflowed between the lines in every sentence of formal speech or casual talk, and in every slogan, oral or written.

Perhaps no one had ever realized so intimately that the human language could be so beautiful and forceful! Perhaps no one ever had such a first-hand comprehension that, in spite of the difference in language, race and customs, people could feel not the least alienated or unfamiliar with one another. But the one characteristic, because of a common ideology, a common cause and a common sentiment, they could be so familiar, intimate and united with one another!

Yes, it is because the Soviet people and the Chinese people are one and the same in their outlook.

After attending the inauguration ceremony of the People's Republic of China, the first meeting of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and the China Conference for Defending World Peace, the Delegation, accompanied by an artists' team (performers and opera troupes), carried on their work untiringly and intensely during the one month's period. They came into contact with the workers, peasants, soldiers, young women, intellectuals, scholars, cultural, literary and art workers and also the leading cadres in various fields. They attended as many as thirty rallies of all kinds and the number of people taking part in each rally ran up to over 500,000. Over twenty meetings for discussions and reports on special topics were held, with nearly 80,000 participants. The Soviet Cultural Delegation gave talks, reports and answered questions at the big rallies and small gatherings, while their artist's team gave concerts and ballets—each and every one of which met with storms of applause and left deep and unforgettable impressions. Their visit was of great benefit to us and solved many problems for us both in theory and in practice. They helped us to a further understanding of the profound friendship of the Soviet Union towards the Chinese people, and of the excellent culture of Socialism, and thereby increased our confidence in developing our own national, popular scientific and New Democratic culture.

The whole Cultural Delegation and the whole artists' team have left a very deep impression on us. The Chinese people now have a better understanding of the fact that the Soviet artists, people from a Socialist society, really have their own characteristics. Their qualities, ideology, attitude, behaviour and spirit for work are worthy of our admiration and emulation.

Look at the tall, sliver-haired A. A. Fadeyev, who has made us admire him whole-heartedly. As the outstanding representative of the Soviet literature and culture, he is such an "engineer of the human soul," so natural, sincere, happy, enthusiastic and yet so modest and scrupulous. When he stepped down from the train at the Harbin station, he said joyously: "I remember that in Moscow we used to say that we would come to China. Now we are really here. Ha, ha, ha!" After his arrival in China, he directed the activities of the whole Delegation and also many official interviews. Even when he fell sick, he still carried on his work. The demands made on him by his Chinese readers were particularly numerous. He gave a theoretical report on Socialism to the Chinese intellectuals and artists. He also found time while travelling by train to write an essay "On Lu Hsun," in which he expressed his respect and gratitude to the great author. This essay has proved to be one of the best appreciations of Lu Hsun's works—concise and profound, with a very appropriate evaluation of Lu Hsun's greatness. We were all sorry about Fadeyev's departure. But we hoped, as he did, that he could return to China often in the future.

Look at the tall K. M. Simov, with a small beard and sharp eyes, who already has some grey hair of fifty or more years of age. His Chinese readers had been very attached to his works and so, on seeing him, they naturally felt very close to him. His witty and poigniant speeches, his lively, gay and magnificent demeanour—all made people like him at once. His ability and energy for work, as well as his organizing power, are all very surprising. After Fadeyev's early departure, he succeeded as chief of the Cultural Delegation and sometimes had to give four talks in one day. Because of interviews, meetings, preparations of speeches, etc., he often could only sleep for three or four hours in a whole week. Back to his own room at the small hours in the morning, he sank like a big bear into the depths of a sofa, panting and obviously tired. But he still smiled and joked: "Ah, I have broken all records. I have become a real writer—for I have recently written tens of thousands of words for my reports and speeches."

Simov also visited Central China and South China. It is no exaggeration to say that he was "fully loaded with his return trip" with material gathered through his interviews and observations. Undoubtedly, he can write a very good book on New China.

Look at the handsome S. A. Gerasimtsev, a little bit bald-headed, with clever eyes and a handsome beard. He is a famous director, very talented and highly cultured. His creative zeal is always at the boiling point, and he was always anxious to get just one more "shot" of New China.

Look at V. N. Staklitof, of medium stature, with broad shoulders and a thick back. He is a Doctor of Biology and head of the Academy of Agriculture, but he still has not lost the true colours of a peasant. With his short-cropped hair and a sincere and honest face, he makes you feel as soon as you meet him that those Russian qualities of honesty and simplicity as well as sincere friendliness and dignity. And when he talked about and explained the theoretical problems of biological sciences, especially of biology, it was with such clarity, in such detail and on such a firm and principle foundation that our scientists were greatly benefited. He took a deep interest in China's agrarian problems and was particularly friendly with the Chinese scientists.

R. I. Agladze—a typical Gruziya (Georgia), Doctor of Technology, Vice-Chairman of the Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Gruziya. His appearance and his talks gave the Chinese people a clear comprehension of the brotherly and friendly unity existing among all the Soviet Republics, as well as the high cultural development among their various peoples. All this was attained under the leadership of Stalin, who comes from the same Republic as Agladze.

L. V. Dubrovin—an experienced educator, was the only woman among the eleven members of the Cultural Delegation. Comrade Dubrovin always aroused great respect among her Chinese audience, the comrades acting as her interpreters and all those in contact with her. They all praised her unifying spirit for work and her systematic way of correcting and teaching others. All her reports, speeches, and answers to questions were very substantial and persuasive. A number of prominent intellectuals, whose ideological development had more or less come to a halt, managed to resume their progress after listening to her talks. Because of her sincerity and earnestness, and her joy over the Chinese people's liberation, she never felt tired even after talking for three or four hours to educational circles and women's groups. Sometimes she set out early in the morning to visit schools and returned late in the afternoon, forgetting about her meals altogether. "For each of us, our visit to China is a big event." "All our impressions of China are unforgettable." On such a grand occasion, it is a
China's Case Against Hirohito

Facts About Japan's Use of Bacterial Warfare

By Wen Chao

A Japanese plane raiding Ningpo, a coastal city in Chekiang, on October 22, 1940. It did not drop any bomb. Instead, it flew low over the city dumping out wads of cotton and sacks of grain. One week later, plague had broken out in Ningpo and had taken its first victim. Before the plague epidemic subsided, 59 people had contracted the dread disease. Two survived.

During the same month, a Japanese plane made a similar raid upon the railway town of Chuchow, also in Chekiang Province. The cotton and grain it poured down upon the town were potentially more lethal than any bomb known at that time. The cotton contained fleas infected with bubonic plague, and the plague-contaminated grain could also infect all the rats for miles around. Twenty-two people died of plague in Chuchow by November 12th. Moreover, plague germs, while easy to distribute, are very difficult to eradicate. Plague epidemics broke out again in Chuchow in 1941, 1946 and 1947. The toll of deaths from plague rose to 200.

In the fall of 1940, the Japanese air force also dropped plague germs on Kinhwa, another railway town in Chekiang. The disease later spread to the nearby counties of Tungyang, Iwu and Lanchi. Of the 438 plague cases registered in these three counties, 361 proved fatal. Plague bacteria were subsequently dropped on Sinting, Chuki, Shanggyu and Yangki in Chekiang Province.

Changteh, in western Hunan Province, was another target of Japan's bacteriological warfare. On December 31, a Japanese plane dropped grain over the city on November 4, 1941. Dr. Tang Hseuh-hua, of the missionary-run Hua Teh Hospital, tested the grain and found it saturated with plague germs. Eight days later, the hospital took in a patient with symptoms of this disease. The patient died 36 hours later. Dr. Tang performed an autopsy and found that death had been caused by bubonic plague—Changteh's first recorded case. Changteh was a highly strategic city in terms of germ warfare. The city lies at the heart of a rice-producing region. Therefore, a plague epidemic started here could be exported far and wide through the innocent-looking bags of grain being shipped out of the area.

The Japanese invaders resorted to their bacteriological weapons in North China too. A unit of the people's Eighth Route Army, operating in Central Hopei found conclusive evidence that the Japanese released great numbers of germ-carrying rats in Tingshien county in 1942. Shortly afterwards, another unit captured Major General Oswo Sei in the same area. The Japanese officer confessed that his troops had been supplied with various equipment for waging bacteriological warfare. In other areas where the Japanese are known to have spread plague or typhoid germs are: Hainhsien, Huhsien and Chunhsien counties of the Shanhsi-Hopei-Shantung-Hunan Liberated Area and Chuchi and Paoteh counties in Shansi Province.

For a moment during the eight years of the Sino-Japanese War did the Japanese militarists relax their attempts to find still more deadly and efficient methods of employing bacterial warfare. They established a number of high-capacity germ-producing centres in China. The specially-trained bacteriological warfare units that staffed these centres used Chinese, Russians and Mongolians as guinea pigs to test the action of man-killing bacteria in the centres. They also steocked deadly microbes and viruses for use against all peoples who opposed Japan's dream of conquest.

Two of Japan's main laboratories for experimenting with bacterial weapons and for breeding their death-dealing microbes were located at Pingfan and Ania near Harbin in Northeast China.

Pingfan is a railway station 25 kilometres south of Harbin. Here, while human diseases are mild, the station lies a heap of ruins, surrounded by a ditch more than a metre deep and an earthen wall two metres high. This is the site of a huge germ-producing centre operated by the 71st Brigade of the Japanese Kwantun Army. The plant was razed to the ground just before the Japanese abandoned the area in the face of the Red Army's offensive in 1945. But in their last flight, the Japanese left much evidence behind as testimony to their hideous crimes.

This germ-manufacturing centre had been a town in itself, complete with motor roads, a power plant, laboratories, barracks and other buildings. Broken pieces of white and brown porcelain found in one ruined laboratory have been identified as parts of "germ bombs" which the Japanese were developing...
The Chinese Changchun Railway

by Meng Sen

Within three years, all railway communications in Northeast China will, for the first time, come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Chinese government. This historic development will be brought about under the terms of the recently-signed Sino-Soviet Agreement regarding the Chinese Changchun Railway—the name of the 2,861-kilometre railway leased by the Japanese in 1905 along the routes of the Chinese Eastern Railway and the South Manchuria Railway. According to this agreement, the Soviet government will turn over all its interests in this railway without compensation as soon as the Japanese Peace Treaty is signed, or in any event, not later than the end of 1922.

China's northeastern provinces, with their tremendous wealth of hardly-developed natural resources, have invited the covetous greed of the great capitalist powers ever since the birth of the imperialist era. But any imperialists who wished to exploit these rich resources and gain mastery over the vast area's economy had first to dominate its economic life-line—the railways. That is why the history of imperialistic machinations in Manchuria before the October Revolution was a history of barefanged competition among the various powers to build and control railroad lines.

Tsarist Russia was the first of the foreign powers to force the degenerate Manchu rulers of China to grant it the right to build and independently operate a rail-line on Chinese soil. Having begun construction on the Trans-Siberian Railway in 1891, Russia now wanted to shorten the rail distance to Nanchow by building a second line eastward across Manchuria from Manchouli. As a result of intrigue and a show of force, Tsarist Russia bludgeoned the feudal Manchu government into granting its permission. A secret treaty was signed to this effect with Premier Li Hung-chang in May, 1896. Two years later, Russia intimidated China into giving her a 25-year lease on the territory of Kwantung, which lies at the tip of the Liaotung peninsula. At the same time she acquired the right to build a north-south railway linking Port Arthur and Dairen, in her leased territory, with the east-west Chinese Eastern Railway.

The C.E.R. was opened to traffic on July 1, 1898, but before the branch from the south could be completed, the vicious Japanese imperialists attacked Tsarist Russia to get their share of the plunder. By virtue of having defeated the Tsarist forces, Japan took over the Kwantung lease and all Russia's railway rights in southern Manchuria. The South Manchuria Railway, therefore, was completed with Japanese capital and opened to traffic on April 1, 1907.

During the next decade, the two railways were utilized to tap the wealth produced by the Chinese people, and to funnel it into the treasure-chests of capitalists residing in Moscow and Tokyo.

Then came the October Revolution of 1917, the first breach in the imperialist system. As soon as the Russian people had taken the power of government into their own hands, they immediately renounced all of their country's imperialist rights in China. This announcement was formalized in 1924 when the Soviet government sent L. M. Karahan as its special envoy to Peking to work out a new Sino-Soviet agreement that would reflect contemporary conditions. In addition to giving up its extraterritorial rights and its share of the Boxer Indemnity, the Soviet government agreed to the renunciation of the C.E.R. by the Chinese government. Pending the final settlement, the agreement specified that the business operations of the railway would be temporarily handled by Joint Sino-Russian management.
In the spring of 1929, Chiang Kai-shek was approached by foreign imperialists with the suggestion that if he seized the C.E.R. by force, he could then mortgage it against a large foreign loan. In May, Chiang ordered his troops to march on the railway and take it over. Prompt action by the Red Army thwarted this highly illegal and piratical act, which, if successful, could have benefited only the imperialist powers.

In 1931, Chiang allowed the Japanese imperialists to occupy Manchuria with little more than verbal protests on his part. The Japanese Zaikatsu immediately turned their greedy eyes towards the C.E.R., the only thing in Manchuria which had not yet come under their domination. They moved their troops to advantageous positions along the line and prepared to take over. But the Soviet Union countered by reinforcing its Far Eastern garrisons as well. The Japanese worried over the Soviet forces and decided that it would be cheaper to buy the railway than to seize it at gunpoint. But the Japanese made one thing clear from the moment they opened negotiations for the purchase of the line: one way or another, they meant to have the C.E.R.

This was now the middle of the 1930's and the Soviet Union was devoting every effort to building up its western defenses against the fascist menace. Rather than fight a costly and time-consuming war over the railway, it agreed in March, 1935, to sell the line for $170,000,000 "Manchoukou Yen."

After the European fascists had been crushed, the Soviet Union was in a position to deal with Japan. On August 9, 1945, the powerful Red Army flung its full might against Japan's crack land forces that had been immobilized in Manchuria throughout the war to guard against the Soviet Union's possible entry into the war. Within a week, the prize Japanese army had been pulverized, and Japan was left with no alternative but surrender.

On the day that Japan stopped fighting - on August 14, 1945 - the Soviet Union signed a new Treaty of Friendship and Alliance with the Republic of China. A new agreement was also reached regarding the two strategic rail-lines which the Red Army had wrested from the Japanese, now grouped together and designated as the Chinese Changchun Railway. The two governments agreed to share equally in the joint ownership of the C.C.R. and to run it as a purely commercial transportation enterprise. Under the terms of this agreement, a ten-man Board of Directors was set up to administer the railroad. Each government was to appoint five members and the board would be headed by a Chinese member. The Chinese Board members would be allotted six votes, five for the Soviet members. This agreement was to remain in effect for 30 years, following which the Soviet Union would transfer all its interests without compensation to the Chinese government.

In view of the circumstances prevailing at that time, it is readily apparent that this kind of arrangement was then in the best interests of the Chinese and Soviet people. Only such joint administration of the railway could guarantee that this strategically vital communication line would not again fall into the hands of some foreign imperialist power. Today it is obvious that had this arrangement not been concluded, Chiang would have been free to make full use of this railway in his subsequent struggle with the Chinese people, and that long before now it would probably have been barred away to Wall Street.

But once Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary regime had been thrown out of China and the Chinese people had formed a government free from imperialist entanglements, the situation was completely changed. Now, for the first time, the people of the two neighbour countries could meet through their representatives and draw up an entirely new type of agreement regarding the C.C.R.

It was not accidental that this new agreement signed on February 14th opened with a preamble stressing the significance of the recent changes that have occurred in the Far East. No longer was the Soviet Union dealing with a bourgeois-landlord government harboring openly hostile sentiments, a government that might, on the slightest pretext, ally itself with American imperialism in an attack upon the Soviet people. And now that the Chinese people had regained full control over their Northeastern territory, Manchuria was no longer a grab-bag for foreign imperialist powers and a potential source of international conflict. The interests of the two neighboring peoples had become entirely parallel, and they now had common friends and enemies.

The concurrently-signed Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance made adequate provisions for the joint defense of Northeast China in times of war, and there was no longer any reason for the Soviet government to retain a voice in the administration of the strategic railway. Therefore, the Soviet Union agreed to transfer all its rights in the C.C.R. to the Chinese People's Government on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, or in any case not later than the end of 1952.
Welcome the Soviet Friends; Learn From the USSR

Now free to express their feelings, the Chinese people even in the most remote countryside have displayed warm brotherly love for their Soviet friends. The Soviet Cultural Delegation, for instance, was greeted with cheers and applause, bouquets and gifts wherever they went during their one-month tour of China last October.

Sino-Soviet relations today are founded upon the spirit of proletarian internationalism and popular endorsement of the policy of "inclining to one side," as enunciated by Chairman Mao. The Chinese people have whole-heartedly joined the side of the peace-loving democratic camp, headed by the Soviet Union. They know that to build a strong and prosperous

A Soviet worker teaches a Chinese girl worker to operate a lathe.

An exhibition of Soviet photographs in Peking draws large crowds.

A peasant woman shakes hands with R. I. Acladze, Vice-Chairman of the Academy of Sciences of the Georgian SSR. Standing between them is K. M. Simonov, noted Soviet writer.
Deeply imbued with the spirit of internationalism, the Soviet people have rendered China valuable and selfless assistance in a wide variety of ways. For instance, Stalin sent a medical team to help fight the plague epidemic in Chahar last winter.

The team toured the most seriously-infected areas without regard to personal danger and material difficulties. As a result of their hard work and sincere cooperation with Chinese medical squads, the deadly disease was quickly stamped out.

Soviet medical personnel helping peasants to fumigate their courtyards.

Genuine Aid From the USSR

On February 6, 1950, at 12:25 p.m., 17 American-made planes bombed the insignia of the Kuomintang air force appeared in the skies over Shanghai. For one hour and 28 minutes they flew low over the city, unloading American-made bombs. When they left at 1:53 p.m., Shanghai had experienced its most devastating raid since V-J Day.

More than 500 civilians lost their lives in this wanton raid, while an additional 1,100 were injured and 50,000 were rendered homeless. Large industrial and residential sections in Yangtsepo and other districts were levelled to the ground. The Shanghai Power Company suffered a direct hit, which cut off most of the city's electric power supply. Industry and communications came to a standstill.

Immediately following the air raid, the people of Shanghai were mobilized to help in first-aid, firefighting and restoration work.

Emergency repairs were started at once on such vital installations as the Shanghai Power Company. A stream of Shanghai citizens volunteered to help the workers and engineers of the power plant put their machinery back into operation. The repair work continued night and day without pause.

Street lights were all back on by 7:30 p.m., for emergency measures had been speedily taken to supply electricity to areas serviced by the Shanghai Power Company. On the following day, tram cars and trolley buses had fully resumed operation.

As soon as the Kuomintang bombers departed and the all-clear siren sounded, first-aid teams were rushed to the devastated areas. People from all walks of life volunteered to help rush the wounded to hospitals and rapidly-established first-aid stations. All of the city's doctors, nurses and medical workers gave their services tirelessly until late into the night to save as many lives as possible.

The 50,000 air-raid victims were provided with food and shelter—a tremendous organizational job which the government was able to carry out swiftly due to the whole-hearted co-operation of the general public. Government-operated stores placed large quantities of goods needed for first aid and lighting on sale at cost prices, which checked profiteering on the part of a few unscrupulous merchants.

The day after the big raid, the municipal authorities convened the first of a series of conferences with various popular organizations, to improve Shanghai's air-raid precautions. These talks resulted in a comprehensive city-wide program, supported by the necessary regulations, designed to minimize casualties and material destruction in the event of future air attacks.

These precautionary measures include the camouflage of factories and plants, the removal of inflammable or explosive substances to safety, the installation of fire-extinguishing equipment, the sinking of new wells to ensure an adequate water supply, the creation of a blood bank, the establishment of more first-aid stations, an increase in the number of hospital beds, etc.

One of the most important measures is that of evacuating non-essential residents. Those whose presence is not needed in Shanghai are advised to return to their respective native towns, where they will be safe from future air raids. The government has offered to help solve the transportation difficulties of those willing to leave the over-crowded metropolis.

Similarly, the government urged all factories that could move out of Shanghai to do so, and offered various kinds of assistance in shifting such factories to areas where raw materials are conveniently at hand. Factories unable or unwilling to move were advised to make themselves less dependent on city power lines. Large-scale enterprises should set up their own generators where possible, while smaller firms should devise emergency methods for running their equipment without city electricity when necessary.

Five days after the raid, the Shanghai Military Control Commission created an Air Defence and Security Committee to strengthen and coordinate the city's air defence activities.

The Kuomintang obviously hoped to terrorize the Shanghai population with its current series of frequent air raids, but the actual effort has been just the contrary. The city's streets, parks and public halls have become the scenes of almost daily mass demonstrations of intense popular indignation and anger at the Kuomintang's wanton slaughter and destruction.

A typical rally was held to commemorate the death of Labour Hero Chang Lai-fa, a Shanghai Power Company worker, and other victims of the February 9th raid. Speaker after speaker rose to his feet vowing to devote his last ounce of energy in helping the People's Liberation Army take Taiwan and wipe the last Kuomintang marauder from the face of China.

Nor did those at the rally forget the role of the American imperialists who alone made it possible for the Kuomintang air force to raid Shanghai. Cold fury swept the crowd when a speaker read out a United Press dispatch from Taiwan, datelined February 13th seven days after the raid. This press report quoted retired Admiral
A Chronology of Sino-Soviet Relations

1917 In December the government of the U.S.S.R. issued a declaration renouncing all imperialist prerogatives acquired in foreign lands by Tsarist Russia.

1919 The Soviet government issued a declaration on July 25th addressed to China which said: "We are marching to free the people from the yoke of the military force of foreign money which is creating chaos in the country, and to establish classes, both to the Chinese people."

(China Year Book, 1924)

1920 The Soviet government addressed a second declaration to China on September 27th which urged the early establishment of diplomatic relations. In this message, the U.S.S.R. declared null and void all the treaties concluded between the former governments of China and Tsarist Russia. The Soviet government then declared its willingness to restore China, "without any compensation and forever, all that has been previously seized from her," the Tsar's Government and the Russian bourgeoisie. It dispatched three envoys to China, headed by A. A. Joffe. The Peking government, however, declined to recognize the Soviet Union.

1923 L. M. Karsan arrives in Peking to negotiate the establishment of diplomatic relations and other Sino-Soviet questions.

1924 Diplomatic relations between China and the Soviet Union were established on May 31st.

1931 On December 12th, normal diplomatic relations were established between China and the U.S.S.R.

1932 On December 12th, normal diplomatic relations were established between China and the U.S.S.R.

1933 The Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact with China in August, the month after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war. By this time, the Soviet government had already sent war supplies worth US$200,000,000 to China.

1934 The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance was signed on August 14th, three days after the U.S.S.R. declared war on Japan. On the same day, Sino-Soviet agreements concerning the Chinese Eastern Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen were signed.

1949 On October 2nd, the Soviet government became the first foreign power to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which had been officially founded on the preceding day.

1945 Six days after the Yalta Conference, Chairman Mao Tse-tung arrived in Peking to negotiate the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which had been officially founded on the preceding day.

1950 The Soviet government produced a public statement declaring its willingness to negotiate the Chinese Eastern Railway and other foreign imperialists, which had been seized by the Chinese government in May of this year. This unprecedented assurance was repudiated by the Soviet Red Army.

1951 Six days after the Mukden Incident, Soviet Foreign Minister Litvinoff condemned Japan's armed invasion of Manchuria and announced that "the U.S.S.R. is entirely sympathetic with China, morally, spiritually and emotionally." Meanwhile, the Soviet government continues to resume diplomatic relations with China.

New Treaty, New Year

In the midst of the lunar New Year celebrations, which were already marked by a spiral of general optimism, the news of the signing of the epoch-making Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance, together with the accompanying agreements arrived from Moscow. This event gives tremendous stimulus to the national rejuvenation, as along the length and breadth of the country the Chinese people welcomed the new treaty and the New Year with the greatest enthusiasm.

Three days after the treaty and agreements were concluded, Chairman Mao Tse-tung sent a congratulatory message to the President of the Swiss government, Chou En-lai left Moscow for China. Many high-ranking Soviet officials including Molotov, Kiyosan, Bulganin and Vihanin were seen off at the Sarovsk railway station. In a speech delivered upon his departure from Moscow, Chairman Mao said that the unity of the great Chinese and Soviet peoples as sealed by the new treaty is "lasting, inviolable and everlasting.

Two days before his departure, Chairman Mao attended a dinner party at the Kremlin, given in his honor by the President of the Soviet Union, Generalissimo Stalin. The following night, a reception at the Swiss Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Wang Chia-hsiang, gave a cocktail party in the Chinese Embassy, attended by more than 500 prominent guests, including Generalissimo Stalin. Earlier, Chairman Mao was guest of honor at a reception held by President Shcherbak.

In China, the new Moscow treaty and agreements were also celebrated with many large social functions. Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, gave a celebration party in Peking on January 10th. In his welcoming speech to the guests, he voiced the predominant thought in the minds of all the Chinese people when he said: "This alliance will consolidate the people's victory and rapidly restore her seriously-damaged economy. At the same time, the world forces of peace, democracy and Socialism will be immeasurably strengthened by the new treaty and agreements."

While in Moscow, P. A. Shishnev, Charge d'Affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Peking, told the guests at the party that the significant event which has taken place in Moscow is "great contribution to the cause of international peace and democracy, and affords practical proof of the greatness of the foreign policy pursued by the U.S.S.R."

On Feb. 18th, Peking held a mass rally to celebrate the Sino-Soviet Treaty and agreements. People of all walks of life thronged before the Gate of Heavenly Peace and turned the Red Square of China into an ocean of waving red flags. The meeting was followed by day-long dancing and demonstrations in the capital's main avenues.

Elsewhere in the country the people celebrated as enthusiastically. The press devoted the bulk of its space to the new treaty, and to special articles by the nation's leading commentators analysing the significance of the epoch-making event. All public organizations took the treaty and agreements as the topic for study and discussion among cadres of all ranks. In the rural areas, the peasants also held meetings to read and discuss the texts of the treaty and agreements.

International Solidarity

China's relations with the People's Democracies are expanding rapidly. Hungarian Minister to China, Mr. Koltai, arrived at Peking on Feb. 10th. The envoy presented credentials to Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, on Feb. 11th, to be followed by Ambassador to China, Todor Rodenko, reached Peking on Feb. 19th.

Another important event was the nationwide observance of Feb. 23rd as 'The Day of International Solidarity with the Youth and Students Fighting against Colonialism'. In a message to the youth, the Central Committee of the New Democratic Youth League of China declared: "When you seek for light in your bitter struggle, remember the existence of the mighty Soviet Union... When you meet with difficulties in your advance, do not forget that the Chinese people also passed along a hard and tortuous path before achieving the present brilliant victories. The youth of China are concerned with every struggle of yours; they share your suffering and stretch out a friendly hand to you."

-Economic Conferences

Four more conferences have been held to promote the nation's economic restoration. A National Chemical Industry Conference made known its 1950 plan on Feb. 11th. According to this program, construction work will be centred on Northeast China this year. Factories producing fertilizers, dyestuffs and cement will be restored first, while the rest will receive large funds for fertilizer production.

The All-China Tele-Communications Conference closed on Feb. 8th. The new plan adopted by the conference calls for the installation of a telephoto service between Peking, Shanghai and Moscow. An international wireless service will also be erected in Peking. During the year, 11,760 kilometres of new telephone wires will be strung, and another 5,060 kilometres of wiring will be repaired.
Soviet Technique, Chinese People Brought Rail to Life

by Special Correspondent

China's great network of railways — wrecked and torn to shreds as was after the Anti-Japanese War and the subsequent fighting — has been restored at a truly incredible speed. Fast trains arrive at destinations thousands of miles from their starting points, on schedule to the minute.

Great stretches of track on which hundreds of bridges were demolished and hundreds of miles of rails, sleepers and paving were ripped out, now have freight and passenger trains steaming through them day and night, joining China's towns and villages into an organic whole for the first time under one government and transport administration.

All this — for any eye to witness — is the result of the inspired work of the Chinese people and the help that has been given by Soviet experts. The hundreds of kilometres of rails supplied by the Soviet Union were precious. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how the Peking-Hankow and Canton-Hankow tracks could have been restored without them. More precious has been the key of experience, freely given by the Soviet people — the advanced technique gained by the Soviet experts in the restoration of railways after the Second World War.

Time and again, by rejecting old conservative methods which have long prevailed among the technicians of America, Britain and Japan; by combining sure technical knowledge with audacity and welding this with the élan of the Chinese railway workers, the Soviet guests were able to halve and even more, cut down the normal time for restoration.

For four whole years the Kuomintang had failed to restore the great bridge that spans the Siyang River in Hunan and connects the Canton-Hankow with the Hunan-Kwangsi-Kweichow Railway. This bridge was restored in 35 days under the guidance of Soviet technicians.

Again, the bridge over the Hwai River in North Kiangsu, vital to the war effort, was built of steel girders on the Terrin-Pukow line, was estimated by Chiang Kai-shek's foreign experts to need six months for repair. While this job was tackled with great difficulty, workers found themselves running a race with flood waters which threatened all their work. But still the job was finished in 60 days — three days ahead of the flood.

In repairing this bridge, the Chinese workers had the help of the Soviet technicians who had carried out the work of restoring the wrecked bridges over the Dnieper. They proposed extended portractions which raised doubts in some Chinese engineering circles, for the northern bank of the River is mud of great depth and the southern bank is hard unyielding rock, almost unworkable.

The Railway Ministry decided to adopt the plan of the Soviet specialists which involved sinking specially constructed boxes into the river. It meant 60 days of hard battle against waves and flood by divers, engineers and boatmen, and now the bridge is in first-rate condition.

In the case of the long bridge over the Paitu River between Taitsihar and Pelan, three of the piers had gone out of plumb, one never having been set. But this job was tackled with hard work. The engineers on the spot, drawing their experience from work under the Japanese regime, had decided that a completely new bridge was necessary. The huge cost, would have thrown the bridge and therefore the line out of operation in two years. But in the case of the Soviet experts, the piers were set back at a fraction of the cost in time and money and the bridge is now safe.

A marked feature of the Soviet technique was the spirit with which the Soviet experts reorganized working methods and used all available machinery to achieve the greatest possible efficiency with the minimum use of manpower. When they tackled the bridge over the Hain Chiang River, they devised, on the spot, a machine for haulage bridge spans into position and thus increased the speed of work from one to five spans a day.

Bridge building plays a crucial part in the restoration of railways in China's mountainous and river-slaugthered spaces. The old warlord, P'ai Ch'ung-hsi, wrecked all the 42 bridges on the line between Tientsin and Kweilin and the Canton-Hankow Railway had to replace the entire bridge that had been destroyed by the Kuomintang.

But more than bridges were needed. Tracks also were sabotaged almost everywhere. In many provinces one could drive for days by the side of tracks where not only were the rails and sleepers missing but they were covered with every scrap of paving. Here also the Soviet experts stepped in with immediate results. The Chengchow Railway Administration, as a result of their help, raised the speed of track laying from 3.5 to 14 kilometres a day.

These Soviet experts refused to be daunted by lack of normal materials but displayed the greatest initiative and confidence with unconventional methods. In some cases they decided that safety margins were being greatly exceeded and, on one bridge on the Lunga Railway, raised the speed of 600 men of heavy compound girder which could be used elsewhere. Often they would demonstrate how to reinforce cracked piers instead of reconstructing them.

Good results were obtained with girders repaired with welding, joined timber where new lengths were lacking and many other ingenuities. These were not based on guesswork but on the most careful scientific calculation, on the basis of their experience in the Soviet Union.

Some Chinese technicians who had hitherto regarded Britain, America or Japan as the last word in technique found that the Soviet methods were far more advanced and lacked the hide-bound prejudices of the old style engineers.

Moreover, the Soviet experts brought with them an excellent working style, a spirit of internationalism, a total lack of arrogance which endeared them to all their Chinese colleagues.

Before putting forward a plan, they always make a personal examination of the problem and carry out exact calculations. The Yellow River Bridge on the Peking-Hankow Railway was repaired by other engineers as quite unserviceable since it had twice outwitted its guaranteed span of life. In

where they go, the Soviet experts pay the greatest attention to the initiative of the workers on the site. They explain their plans again and again and where there are differences of opinion, meetings are held until the majority have agreed on a line of action. However bad the weather or other conditions, they always remain with the workers, often drenched to the skin and plastered from head to foot with mud. On innumerable occasions they have worked without sleep for long periods at some crucial juncture in the work.

They have brought to China the true spirit of the national brotherhood and because of this, the unity of Soviet experience with the enthusiasm of the Chinese workers has become a unique force. And China's reconstructed railway system has become a great arterial system, bringing new life to this great country.

(From China News Agency)

Repairing the Railway

by Huwng Jung-te'an
There is no better test of the affinity between Chinese and other peoples than the occasion when a foreign play is played in the Chinese stage. Years ago, when Gogol's Inspector and Gorky's Lower Depths were produced in Shanghai, the audiences were amazed at how similar the Chinese people were emotionally to their neighbours in the Soviet Union, whose culture and other things they shared, and whose social problems were similar to theirs. In spite of the big false nose, the artificial wigs and beards and the Slavic names, the Russian characters portrayed on the stage did not seem alien.

The newly-founded People's Art Theatre of Peking has very fittingly chosen The Moscow Character, by A. S. Sofronov, as the first number of its repertoire. Every performance has been given before a packed house for nearly one month.

The Moscow Character

The Annual Congress of the Michurin Society adjourned on February 20th, after meeting three days at the Agricultural University, in Peking. It was attended by 400 delegates sent by different branches of the Society. Among the participants were agricultural workers, professors, students, peasants, Labour Heroes and Model Workers. The Congress heard a dozen reports, revised its constitution, elected a standing committee and issued a manifesto. A summary of this document follows:

The Society was organized in the spring of 1940 at Shenyang, it is named after I. V. Michurin, the Soviet scientist who became one of the greats of the second generation. The Society was organized to promote agricultural production under the guidance of the Michurinist theory and to put this theory into practice in China.

The Society had laboured to remove droughts over the past forty and fifty years. But since they lived under reactionary rule and were also influenced by the erratic theories of bourgeois scientists, their results were very meagre. Today, with the creation of the people's democratic dictatorship, a new foundation for agricultural construction has now been laid.

All agricultural scientific knowledge and techniques must be put into the hands of the peasants, and must serve the peasants and must advance production. This is why the Society demands for the popularization of the biological theory propounded by Michurin and Lysenko.

In one year, our membership has grown from some 30 people to 2,000. But we must now unite all the progressive agricultural workers, agronomists and peasants under our guidance in order to restore and develop the production of our vast countryside.

Exhibition of Soviet Films

In celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Soviet cinematography, 28 of the most outstanding Soviet films are being shown in Shanghai between February 10th and March 5th. This film exhibition is sponsored jointly by the Chinese Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Soviet Film Export Company. Two theatres simultaneously presented the series in Peking while showings had also been arranged in Tientsin, Mukden and Shanghai.


Sino-Soviet Association

According to incomplete figures just published by the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, 1,268,937 workers, peasants, soldiers, students and public functionaries had enrolled as members by January, 1949. Membership in Manchuria, which stood at half a million last September, has almost doubled. Peking has a membership of 175,000.

The Association also revealed that its Service Department presented 297 showings of Soviet films before the great masses. Strengthening friendship and co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the rebirth of Japanese imperialism and the resources of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate in any way with Japan in acts of aggression; imbued with the desire to consolidate lasting peace and universal security in the Far East and throughout the world in conformity with the aims and principles of the United Nations; profoundly convinced that the consolidation of good neighbourly relations and friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics meets the vital interests of the peoples of China and the Soviet

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The aforementioned treaty and agreements were signed in behalf of the People's Republic of China by Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the U.S.S.R. by A. Y. Vyshinsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In connection with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, and the Agreement on the Chemical Shanghai Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen, Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and A. Y. Vyshinsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs, exchanged Notes to the effect that the respective treaty and agreements concluded on August 14, 1945, between China and the Soviet Union are now null and void, and also that both Governments affirm that the independent status of the Mongolian People's Republic is fully guaranteed as a result of its plebiscite of 1945 and the establishment with it of diplomatic relations by the People's Republic of China.

At the same time, A. Y. Vyshinsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, also exchanged Notes on the decision of the Soviet Government to hand over without compensation to the Government of the People's Republic of China the property acquired in Manchuria from Japanese owners by Soviet economic organizations, and also on the decision of the Soviet Government to hand over to the Government of the People's Republic of China all the buildings of the former military cantonment in Peking.

Joint communiqué of the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

In the recent past, negotiations have been held in Moscow between Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, and Chou En-lai, Premier of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the Central People's Government and the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the one hand; and J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and A. Y. Vyshinsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., on the other; in the course of which important political and economic questions concerning the relations between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union were discussed.

These negotiations which proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendly mutual understanding confirmed the desire of both parties to strengthen and develop their friendly co-operation in every way and likewise confirmed their desire to co-operate for the purpose of ensuring peace and security for the peoples of all nations.

The negotiations concluded with the signing on February 14th in the presence of the following: (1) the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union; (2) the Agreement on the Chinese-Changchun Railway (between Port Arthur and Dairen, according to which the Chinese Changchun Railway is to be handed over to the People's Republic of China and Soviet troops are to be withdrawn from Port Arthur, following the signing of the peace treaty with Japan); (3) the Agreement on the granting by the Government of the Soviet Union of a long-term economic credit to be used by the Government of the People's Republic of China to pay for the deliveries of industrial and railway equipment from the U.S.S.R.

Full texts of the aforementioned treaty and agreements are given below.

THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, ALLIANCE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, both being the great nations strengthening friendship and co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the rebirth of Japanese imperialism and the resources of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate in any way with Japan in acts of aggression; imbued with the desire to consolidate lasting peace and universal security in the Far East and throughout the world in conformity with the aims and principles of the United Nations; profoundly convinced that the consolidation of good neighbourly relations and friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics meets the vital interests of the peoples of China and the Soviet
THE AGREEMENT ON CHINESE CHANGCHUN RAILWAY, PORT ARTHUR AND DAIREN BETWEEN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics declare that since 1945, fundamental changes have occurred in the situation in the Far East, namely: Imperialist Japan has suffered defeat; the reactionary Kuomintang Government has been overthrown; China has become a People’s Democratic Republic; a People’s Government has been established in China which has unified the whole of China; has carried out a policy of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and has proved its ability to defend the national independence and territorial integrity of China and the national honour and dignity of the Chinese people.

The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics declare that this new situation permits a new approach to the question of the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen.

In conformity with these new circumstances the Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have decided to conclude the present agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen:

Article 1
Both contracting parties agree that the Soviet Government transfer without compensation to the Government of the People’s Republic of China all its rights in the joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway with all the property belonging to the Railway. The transfer will be effected immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952.

Pending the transfer, the joint administration of the Chinese Changchun Railway shall remain unchanged. After this agreement becomes effective, posts (such as manager of the Railway, chairman of the Central Board, etc.) will be periodically alternated between representatives of China and the U.S.S.R.

As regards concrete methods of effecting the transfer, these will be agreed upon and determined by the Governments of both contracting parties.

Article 2
Both contracting parties agree that Soviet troops be withdrawn from the joint-utilized naval base Port Arthur, and that the installations in this area be handed over to the Government of the People’s Republic of China immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952. The Government of the People’s Republic of China will compensate the Soviet Union for expenses which it has incurred in restoring and constructing installations since 1945.

For the period pending the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the transfer of the above-mentioned installations, the Governments of China and the Soviet Union will each appoint an equal number of military representatives to form a joint Chinese-Soviet military commission which will be alternately presided over by each side and which will be in charge of military affairs in the area of Port Arthur; concrete measures in this sphere will be drawn up by the joint Chinese-Soviet military commission within three months after the present agreement becomes effective and shall be put into force upon approval of these measures by the Governments of both countries.

The present agreement comes into force on the day of its ratification. The exchange of instruments of ratification will take place in Peking.

Done in Moscow on February 14, 1950, in two copies, each in the Chinese and Russian languages, both texts being equally valid.

On the authorization of the Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China

CHOU EN-LAI

On the authorization of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

A. Y. VISHINSKY

A. Y. VISHINSKY
Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China expresses the striving of both our peoples for eternal friendship and cooperation as the common task of our countries, for strengthening of peace and security of nations.

Of great and important significance is the Agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen. The agreement points out that since 1945 radical changes occurred in the situation in the Far East which permit a new approach to the question of the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen. Every article of this agreement bespeaks high respect on the part of the Soviet Union for national independence and national rights and the strengthening of friendship and economic and cultural ties between the two nations.

Determination of our peoples to develop and consolidate economic and cultural ties between the Soviet Union and China and to render each other economic assistance formed the basis of the agreements on granting of the long-term economic credit by the Soviet Union to the People's Republic of China.

The treaty and agreements signed today between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union constitute the biggest contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and democracy throughout the world.

Historically, the China-Soviet Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance and the other agreements of the era of the Great Proletarian Revolutionary War have been, and still are, a shining example of the grandeur of the principles of Soviet foreign policy.

New Era of Sino-Soviet Friendship

China and the Soviet Union have concluded the new Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, the Sino-Soviet Agreement concerning the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen, and the Sino-Soviet Agreement concerning the extension of credit to China. In addition, a Sino-Soviet Trade Agreement is almost completed and will soon be signed.

With the conclusion of the above agreements, the treaty and agreements have all been published. They all constitute important acts taken by the Governments of China and the Soviet Union. They are acts which usher in a new era in relations between the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, and which have great political and historical significance for the whole of the East and of the world.

The new Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance and the other agreements signify that the unity of the people of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, has been consolidated. Deep friendship has existed between the two great countries since the October Socialist Revolution. The Sino-Soviet Treaty of 1924, the Sino-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of 1937 and the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance of 1945 have made great and positive contributions to the development of the friendship and cooperation between the two great nations, China and the Soviet Union, and to the assistance given by the Soviet Union to the liberation struggle of the Chinese people against imperialism.

In August 1945, the Government of the Soviet Union, acting in accordance with the Treaty of Alliance, directly sent its army to assist the Chinese Liberation army in the defeat of the Japanese forces and forced it to surrender. As Chairman Mao Zedong has said: The Chinese people will never forget all these friendly acts on the part of the Soviet Union.

When the old Sino-Soviet treaty, the old Sino-Soviet agreements, namely, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance of 1945, and other agreements were published, some people expressed doubts or failed to understand them. The Communist Party of China has always held that this treaty and other agreements were beneficial both to the Chinese and Soviet peoples, in dealing with imperialism and because China was, at that time, ruled by the counter-revolutionary Chiang Kai-shek clique.

Facts have now shown that, when the situation had undergone a fundamental change, namely, when imperialist Japan had been defeated and the reactionary Kuomintang government had been overthrown and China had become a People's Republic, a new treaty and new agreements were immediately concluded between China and the Soviet Union.

Our great ally, the Soviet Union, on the basis of the policy of Generalissimo Stalin, has manifested great moral principle and loyalty by deciding on a settlement of the questions of the Chinese-Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen in full conformity to the present conditions. Is this not clear? Are there still any grounds for doubt?

The world imperialists, led by American imperialism, having suffered utter defeat in supporting the counter-revolutionary regime of Chiang Kai-shek, has tried by every means, both in China and in other countries, to hinder the People's Republic of China from realizing the Sino-Soviet treaties and agreements.

Facts have now proved that the plot of the imperialist bloc led by American imperialism has met a complete fall. The great victory of the people of China and the Soviet Union, are now solidly united on the basis of the new Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance and other new agreements of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance of 1945, or of power, this unity of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, is completely invincible.

Let us look at the main contents of these agreements. The Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance, one of all, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance. This is the general program of economic and cultural cooperation. Important and weighty stipulations have been laid down in the treaty with regard to the Sino-Soviet alliance against aggression:

"Each contracting party undertakes jointly to adopt all necessary measures at their disposal for the purpose of preventing the resumption of aggression and violation of peace on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate with Japan directly or indirectly in acts of aggression. In the event of one of the contracting parties being attacked by Japan or any state allied with it and thus being involved in a state of war, the other contracting party will immediately render military and other assistance by all means at its disposal.

The parties also declare their readiness to participate in all international actions aimed at preserving peace and security throughout the world and to cooperate with each other to the earliest implementation of these tasks."

The pact also laid down stipulations concerning the full implementation of the Sino-Soviet alliance as follows:

"Each contracting party undertakes not to conclude any alliance directed against the other contracting party and not to take part in any coalition or in any measures directed against the other contracting party."

"Both contracting parties, in the interests of cooperation, shall consult with each other in regard to all important international problems affecting the common interests of China and the Soviet Union."

The agreement strongly emphasizes that the Sino-Soviet alliance is a fraternal alliance.

Such a fraternal alliance between China and the Soviet Union is manifested not only in the political activities of opposing aggression and defending peace, but is further manifested in mutual economic and cultural assistance. For instance, it is stipulated in the new treaty that:

"Each contracting party undertakes in the spirit of friendship and cooperation in and in conformity with the principles of equality, mutual interest, non-aggression, non-interference, sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other contracting party to cooperate and consolidate economic and cultural ties between the Chinese and the Soviet Union, to render the other all possible economic assistance and to carry out necessary economic cooperation."

Obviously this clause is particularly necessary to Chinese and Soviet economic cooperation.

The agreement on credit extended to the People's Republic of China by the Soviet Union and the Sino-Soviet Trade Agreement, to be concluded soon, are the further examples of the Sino-Soviet alliance concerning economic assistance and economic cooperation.

The Sino-Soviet credit, on the preferential terms of one per cent interest annually, is, as everyone knows, extremely advantageous to China, especially in view of China's present financial and economic difficulties. Of the thirteen times China has concluded the Sino-Soviet Treaty concerning the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen is of great importance. This agreement stipulates:

"Both contracting parties agree that the Soviet Government transfer without compensation to the Government of the People's Republic of China all its rights in the joint administration of the Chinese-Changchun Railway with all the property belonging to the Railway. The transfer will be effected immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952."

Secondly, "Both contracting parties agree that Soviet troops be withdrawn from the joint-administered railway and its installations. The introduction of Soviet troops in this area will be handed over to the Government of the People's Republic of China immediately on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, but not later than the end of 1952. The Government of the People's Republic of China will compensate the Soviet Union for expenses which it has incurred in remaining and constructing installations since 1944."

At the same time, this agreement also stipulates: "In the event of either of the contracting parties becoming the object of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate with Japan, and as a result thereof becoming involved in hostilities, China and the Soviet Union may, on the proposal of the Government of the People's Republic of China, withdraw from the Sino-Soviet Treaty and make the People's Government, jointly use the naval base Port Arthur for the purpose of conducting joint military operations against the aggressor."

"Both contracting parties agree that the question of Dairen harbour be further considered on the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan. As regards the administration of Dairen, it is stipulated in the joint declaration of the Governments of the People's Republic of China. All the property in Dairen now provisionally administered by or leased to the Soviet Union, shall be taken over by the Government of the People's Republic of China."

As stated above, this agreement especially demonstrates the great moral principle and loyalty of the Soviet Union, the assistance ardently and willingly given by the Soviet Union to the Chinese people.
The Notes exchanged between the Foreign Ministers of both countries reaffirmed their recognition and guarantee of the independent status of the Mongolian People's Republic. This shows that the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, respect the real free will of the Mongolian people. At a time when the American imperialists are exhausting their mental powers in the unscrupulous manufacture of fabrications and slanders, this affirmation is very necessary.

Without any doubt, the new treaty and new agreements between China and the Soviet Union are of great assistance to the new-born People's Republic of China. They show that the People's Republic of China is by no means isolated and they will be of assistance to the rehabilitation and development of the new China and to her peaceful construction and economic prosperity. The publication of the treaty and agreements will undoubtedly give rise to great elation among the people throughout China, and will enable them to understand more clearly the Soviet Union, and to understand the benefits of firm solidarity between the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union. It will provide all patriotic, advanced elements and patriotic people with weapons to criticize effectively sentiments of narrow nationalism and illusions about the imperialist and capitalist countries which are entertained by some people; to strike down and overcome these harmful and erroneous sentiments and illusions; to unite still further the people throughout the country in common struggle against the disruption and aggression of imperialism and its lackeys and to consolidate the revolutionary gains of all the people.

Of course, the influence of the new treaty between China and the Soviet Union is not limited to the relations between China and the Soviet Union. Nor is its influence limited to China herself.

It must be pointed out that the new treaty between China and the Soviet Union is a great blow to the American imperialists' plot to undermine the peace of the Far East. As is commonly known, American imperialism has used every device to foster the reactionary forces of Japan, to delay and sabotage the conclusion of the peace treaty with Japan, and to instigate the revival of aggression by Japanese imperialism. But China and the Soviet Union are the two great countries that play the decisive role in the East. The two countries, China and the Soviet Union, have now proclaimed that they have reformed their alliance against aggression, and that they will exert their common efforts to conclude the peace treaty with Japan within the shortest possible time. This action will have great effects on the situation in the East and will place American imperialism and the Japanese reactionaries in an extremely bad plight, and will consolidate the peace of the East.

This is not all. The new Treaty of Sino-Soviet Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance will certainly play a great role in strengthening the cause of world peace.

On the one hand there is the extremely powerful and great Socialist state, the Soviet Union, and on the other, there is the great, new-born People's Republic of China with a firm militant will. Together they have a total population of nearly 700 million, or more than one third of the world population, who are moreover steadfast and united in opposing the aggressive policies of imperialism and in supporting the just cause of peace. This cannot but directly or indirectly affect and change the world situation and deal a heavy blow to the aggressive plans and war policies conducted throughout the world by the imperialist bloc headed by American imperialism. In other words, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance will alter the world correlation of forces between the peace front headed by the Soviet Union and the aggressors' front headed by American imperialism. The peace front will become more powerful while the aggressive front will be much weakened.

The Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, as has been said above, is a treaty of fraternal alliance. Hence it is a treaty of true friendship, true alliance and true mutual assistance. The strong and unbreakable political foundation which has brought about such true friendship, alliance and mutual assistance lies in the fact that the peoples of the two countries are both masters of their respective states; that the leaders of the two great countries regard the destinies of the people as their own destinies. Hence, it can be stated with certainty that such friendship, alliance and mutual assistance will continue forever and will have extremely far-reaching effects on the future of the whole of mankind. Here we must especially thank Generalissimo Stalin and Chairman Mao Tse-tung for their wise decisions.

The Chinese people are brave and industrious. China is a country with a vast territory, plentiful resources and a huge population. Through hard struggle under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, plus the favourable condition of assistance from the Soviet Union, the great People's Republic of China is certain to be swiftly transformed into a strong, prosperous and industrialized country.

The tasks which now lie ahead of the people throughout the country are to unite as one and to march courageously forward and steadily attain their goal of annihilating the bandit remnants, completing the agrarian reform, carrying out economic and cultural reconstruction and improving the people's livelihood.

Let all the aggressive hangmen and warmongers of imperialism howl and tremble! Hail to the friendship and co-operation of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union! Long live Generalissimo Stalin, leader of the working people of the world, and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Chinese people!

(All the documents and related material in this section, with the exception of A. Y. Vyshinsky's speech, have been translated by PEOPLE'S CHINA from the official Chinese texts.—Ed.)