

NORMALIZATION

CHINA JOINS U.S. WAR BLOC

On the evening of December 15, with a grin that stretched from ear to ear, Jimmy Carter announced on national TV the normalization of relations with the Peoples Republic of China. The U.S. has agreed to the establishment of full diplomatic relations beginning on January 1, 1979. Outwardly, the U.S. appears to be making a concession to China -- formal recognition, exchanging ambassadors, severing formal relations with Taiwan, etc.

But in fact, this agreement is no concession at all. It is the revisionist rulers of China who are making the concessions, hand over foot. This agreement is only further capitulation to and collaboration with the very forces which bled China for generations, particularly U.S. imperialism. For the U.S., the agreement is a big step towards preparing for war with the Soviet Union, with China a big pawn of the U.S., and an invitation to exploit and subjugate the Chinese people.

When China was a socialist country under the leadership of the revolutionary line of Mao Tsetung, the establishment of diplomatic relations would have been cheered as a victory for the international proletariat. But since the revisionist coup in 1976 in China by the gang of reactionaries led by Hua Kuo-feng and Teng Hsiao-ping, Mao's revolutionary line has been overthrown. Mao himself is being wildly attacked and the revolutionaries are being brutally suppressed in the present rulers' headlong lust to restore capitalism.

In this context, normalization between the two countries cannot possibly have the same meaning now as it would have had when China was a socialist country. In fact, the recent agreement amounts to no more than the further cementing of ties between two reactionary governments.

When Nixon went crawling to socialist China in 1972, it represented a real concession by the U.S. ruling class, who were forced to admit the utter defeat of their strategy of attempting to strangle the revolution by encircling China while pretending Taiwan's reactionaries were really the true China. Although the capitalist roaders in China undoubtedly wanted to capitulate even then, Mao and the revolutionary left prevailed, militantly proclaiming their support for the liberation struggles in Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea and around the world in the very joint communique they signed with the U.S. in Shanghai.

In the 1972 Shanghai Communique, the Chinese under the leadership of Mao stated quite firmly that the liberation of Taiwan was strictly an internal affair of China in which no country could interfere, and this was an essential condition for establishing diplomatic relations. Now, however, such interference is to be tolerated. While the U.S. imperialists are willing to drop Taiwan's claim to be the real government, they are by no means giving up on their billions invested there or on their brutal exploitation of the people.

Carter made it perfectly clear that normalization "will not jeopardize the people of Taiwan" and that the U.S. will continue to "maintain current commercial, cultural and other relations with Taiwan through non-government means" (including the "private" sale of U.S. arms). The U.S. Defense Department announced 4 days later that it will still supply the Taiwan reactionaries with millions of dollars worth of arms over the next few years. Since the U.S.-Taiwan defense treaty will remain in effect for another year even though Taiwan is a part of China, the press is reporting that Carter has undoubtedly received assurances from the Chinese rulers that they will not attempt to forcibly regain Taiwan.

Teng Hsiao-ping let the cat out of the bag when he went out of his way to ease American concerns about Taiwan, telling visitors last month that Taiwan would

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Revolutionary Communist Party

retain its own non-communistic economic and social system after reunification with the mainland. Strange thing for a "communist" to say, but natural for a revisionist like Teng, whose lifelong dream has been to turn all of China into a giant Taiwan.

Indeed, the revisionists have already gone a long way toward the "Taiwanization" of China -- opening the country up wide to multi-national corporations, investments and banks, advocating wholesale reliance on Western technology. Already it is rumored that a deal is in the works for U.S. arms sales to China. An agreement has been signed to allow Pan Am to build a series of hotels in China, owned and operated by the imperialists for profit. Joint U.S.-Chinese garment ventures are being set up where U.S. investors will reap almost half the profits. This exploitation is what Carter referred to when he said normalization will mean "expanded commercial relations which will contribute to the well-being of our nation".

But the plunder of China is but a drop in the bucket compared to what the U.S. vultures have in mind. The main purpose of normalizing relations with China is to tie her more tightly to the U.S. bloc in preparation for all out war with the Soviets to redivide the world and to decide which set of slavemasters will be king.

In this light, Carter's claim that normalizing relations with China "has no other purpose than the advancement of peace" can be seen for the stinking, bloody hypocrisy that it is. The emergence of capitalism in China, and China tying itself to the coattails of the U.S. imperialists only strengthens the position of the U.S. imperialists in this part of the world. Is there any doubt that this will heighten contention between the 2 superpower rivals, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and speed up the inevitable outbreak of World War III? The U.S. promise to "never seek hegemony in any region of the world" stands exposed as a blatant lie when at this very moment they are desperately trying to keep their iron-fisted domination of Iran.

For their part, the Chinese rulers are only too happy to grovel before the U.S. imperialists as long as they believe their interests are best served by lining up in the U.S. led military alliance. For instance, they worry about the threat to their rule from the Soviet troops on their border. But this does not rule out the possibility that, out of naked self-interest they could easily leap frog over to the Soviet Union if international developments make this seem more practical to keep them in power.

Normalization is a fitting reward for the treason of the revisionist traitors who are serving up capitalism in China. It amounts to no more than congratulations by the imperialists for a job well done as they sharpen up their knife and fork in anticipation of an even more heartier meal.

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The RCP is calling for nationwide demonstrations to greet Teng Hsiao-ping when he comes to the U.S. We guarantee that this two-bit despot won't leave here without knowing that there are revolutionaries who uphold Mao Tsetung. Join the coalition being formed to greet Teng. Call for information.