

# AN ADDRESS

ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SINO-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP,  
ALLIANCE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

*by*

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The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Liu Shao-chi, President of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, at a mass meeting held in Peking on February 13, 1953, in celebration of the third anniversary of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance.

Dear Comrades!

Today we are meeting here to celebrate the third anniversary of the great Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance. This is a day worthy of unanimous celebration by all the peoples of China and the Soviet Union, by all the peace-loving people of the world.

Three years ago, after the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, Comrade Mao Tse-tung said in his farewell speech before leaving Moscow:

"It is hard to express in words the complete mutual understanding and the profound friendship which have been established on the basis of the fundamental interests of our great peoples of China and the Soviet Union. Everybody can see that the unity of the great Chinese and Soviet peoples which is sealed by the Treaty is enduring, indestructible and impervious to any attack. This unity will inevitably influence not only the prosperity of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, but also the future of all mankind and the victory of peace and justice throughout the world."

Three years have passed since this great Treaty was signed and the facts in these past three years prove that the friendship and unity between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union, sealed by the Treaty, has been further developed and streng-

thened. This friendship and unity has greatly influenced not only the prosperity of these two great countries but also the victory of peace and justice throughout the world. As time passes, the people can see more clearly what a great influence this friendship and unity which has been sealed by the Treaty will exert on these two peoples and on the whole of mankind.

Everyone knows that the main purpose of the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was to "prevent . . . the revival of Japanese imperialism and the resumption of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate in any way with Japan in acts of aggression." When the Treaty was signed, people were prone to consider that the revival of Japanese imperialism and the resumption of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that might collaborate in any way with Japan in acts of aggression did not have any practical significance, and thus they neglected this significant aspect of the Treaty.

At that time, some people made such remarks as "why use an ox-knife to kill a chicken?" They probably thought that Japanese imperialism, after its defeat in the Second World War, had become a "chicken" and could not be built up again and that any resumption of aggression by Japan or any other state collaborating in any way with her had become impossible. Since an ox-knife is not needed to kill

a chicken, they wondered why two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, should sign a solemn treaty to jointly prevent the revival of Japanese imperialism and its resumption of aggression.

But these people were obviously mistaken. It was not long after that U.S. imperialism, using Japan as a base and rearming her, launched its aggressive war in Korea and forcibly seized China's territory—Taiwan. On the heels of this, the illegal, unilateral San Francisco "Peace Treaty" with Japan, and the "U.S.-Japan Security Pact" aimed at reviving Japanese militarism and launching aggression, were concluded. A "peace treaty" between the reactionary Japanese Government and the Chiang Kai-shek brigands in Taiwan was also signed. The resurgence of Japanese militarism has begun and Japan has started rearming. Certain countries are still attempting to conclude the aggressive, so-called Pacific Pact with the Japanese militarists playing the role of gunmen. All this proves that it is a matter of very serious, practical concern to prevent the revival of Japanese imperialism and the resumption of aggression on the part of Japan or any other state that may collaborate in any way with Japan.

Obviously, in view of the present situation in the Far East, other Asian countries will not unleash a war or would find it difficult to do so as long as Japanese imperialism is unable to make a comeback and to launch aggressive war. It would be impossible for U.S. imperialism or any other imperialist power to launch large-scale aggressive war in the Far East without Japan as a base of aggressive war, without the support and assistance of the reactionary Japanese rulers and without Japanese manpower being used in the service of and as cannon fodder for aggressive war. It can thus be said that peace in the Far East is assured as long as it is possible to prevent "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." Therefore, there is full justification for the fact that the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance regards this as its main purpose in order to ensure peace in the Far East and the rest of the world.

The present situation is this: On the one hand, Japanese imperialism is attempting to make a comeback and resume aggression under revanchist slogans. On the other hand, U.S. imperialism is rearming Japan, is reviving Japanese militarism which was the Far Eastern hotbed of the Second World War. Thus it has become an ever more serious task for the people of the Far East and the rest of the

world to prevent the revival of Japanese imperialism and the resumption of aggression and violation of peace by Japan or any state that may collaborate with Japan directly or indirectly in acts of aggression. The great role and influence which the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance is playing in this respect become increasingly apparent.

It is exactly because of this that Comrade Stalin said that the friendship and alliance between China and the Soviet Union "is a reliable guarantee against the threat of another aggression, a powerful stronghold of peace in the Far East and throughout the world."

It can now be clearly seen that precisely because of this Treaty and the friendship and alliance between the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, we can victoriously carry on the struggle to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, causing U.S. imperialism to suffer disastrous defeats and major difficulties in Korea and thus upsetting and retarding the timetable of U.S. imperialism in its war of world aggression. This proves what Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said: that the unity of the great Chinese and Soviet peoples which is sealed by the Treaty has already greatly influenced the prosperity of the two great countries and the victory of peace and justice throughout the world, and will continue to exercise great influence in the future.

As is generally known, another purpose of the signing of the Treaty is to undertake "in a spirit of friendship and co-operation and in conformity with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other Contracting Party, to develop and consolidate economic and cultural ties between China and the Soviet Union, to render the other all possible economic assistance and to carry out necessary economic co-operation."

Facts in the past three years have also fully proved that these relations between the two countries, sealed by the Treaty, have already been developed and consolidated. They have greatly benefited the prosperity of the two countries and, particularly, the restoration and development of China's economy.

Along with the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, there was signed the Agreement on the granting of a credit to the People's Republic of China. The Soviet Union granted China a credit of 300 million American

dollars on the favourable terms of 1 per cent annual interest. This was an important aid for the then wrecked economy of China.

In addition, the Agreement on the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen was also signed. This provided for transfer without compensation to China of all rights in the Chinese Changchun Railway together with all property belonging to it not later than the end of 1952 and that Soviet troops would be withdrawn from the naval base of Port Arthur not later than the end of 1952. By now, all the property of the Chinese Changchun Railway, which, using advanced Soviet methods, has become the best managed of all the railways in China, has been transferred to China without compensation. As to the naval base of Port Arthur the period of its joint use has been extended at the request of the Chinese Government, and Soviet troops remain responsible for the defence of the area. All this shows that the Soviet Union is fulfilling its obligations of alliance and mutual assistance faithfully and meticulously.

The Sino-Soviet agreement on the joint exploitation of oil and non-ferrous metals in Sinkiang and the agreement on the joint development of civil aviation between China and the Soviet Union have both been fully carried out. These jointly operated enterprises are now operating smoothly.

During the past three years, too, trade between China and the Soviet Union has developed very considerably. In 1952, China's exports to the Soviet Union made up 54 per cent of the total value of all goods exported and imports from that country made up 53 per cent of the total value of China's imports. It is worth mentioning here that while some of China's exports to the Soviet Union has consisted of industrial raw materials, the greater part has been agricultural products; the overwhelming part of the imports from the Soviet Union has been machinery, complete sets of equipment and other essential materials for industry, communications and transport. Trade between our two countries has assumed an extremely important position in the establishment of the new, democratic world market.

The Soviet Union has given us very great technical aid for our economic recovery and development. There are already a good number of experienced Soviet designing and technical experts working in various economic organisations and enterprises of China. They are imbued with a high spirit of internationalism and are enthusiastically and unreservedly helping the Chinese people in the

work of construction. They have solved many important technical problems in China's productive enterprises. The plans for building, altering and extending many important plants and other building projects in China have been drafted by Soviet experts, thus accelerating China's economic recovery and development.

The cultural ties between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union have also greatly developed during the past three years.

China has sent twenty-two delegations to the Soviet Union for the purpose of visits and study. The Soviet Union has sent eighteen delegations to China and they have come into broad contact with the Chinese masses. In particular, during the Sino-Soviet Friendship Month (November-December, 1952), four Soviet delegations comprising three hundred people came to China, gave performances in twenty-six cities of China and carried out other activities. They delivered speeches in many parts of the country and held discussions with all sections of the people on 158 occasions, during which they met a total of 170,000 persons. Some 900,000 people attended the 142 performances which they gave. More than 25 million listened to their twenty-two radio broadcasts. The Soviet Cinema Workers Group, which was one of these delegations, met in all 110,000 people during fifty occasions. During that month, Soviet films were shown in 67 cities of China and drew audiences totalling more than 100 million.

Several thousand Soviet books have been translated and published in China during the past three years. In the Soviet Union, more than one hundred Chinese books have been translated into sixteen different languages and published in close to 5 million copies. One hundred and twenty Soviet films have been dubbed in Chinese and have had an enthusiastic reception from the broad masses of the Chinese people.

China has sent several hundred students to study in the Soviet Union and will in future send students there in large numbers. Quite a number of Soviet professors have already started teaching in the higher educational institutions of China, and the curricula of Chinese schools will gradually be reformed by adopting advanced Soviet experience.

All this means that cultural relations between our two countries have already developed very considerably and will henceforth continue to grow unceasingly.

Because of the demands arising from these cultural relations and for other reasons, a great wave of enthusiasm for learning Russian has arisen among Chinese intellectuals. In the Soviet Union, at the same time, an increasing number of people are learning the Chinese language. This will create still more favourable conditions for the peoples of our two countries to establish yet closer contacts.

The spirit and the principles embodied in the Treaty have been fully observed "to develop and consolidate economic and cultural ties" between the two countries, to render each other "all possible economic assistance and to carry out necessary economic co-operation." In other words, the line has been followed that "each Contracting Party undertakes, in a spirit of friendship and co-operation and in conformity with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other Contracting Party," to develop these ties. The mutual economic assistance and economic co-operation and the development of economic and cultural ties between the two countries in this spirit and in accordance with these principles also confirm Comrade Mao Tse-tung's statement that they vitally influence the prosperity of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, and the victory of peace and justice in the whole world.

All these facts prove that the friendship and unity between the peoples of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, which is sealed by the Treaty has greatly developed during the past three years and will continue to develop unceasingly. This friendship and unity is enduring, indestructible, impervious to any attack and can stand invincible in the world.

Why are such developments possible in the friendship and unity between the peoples of our two countries? Why is this friendship and unity enduring, indestructible and impervious to any attack?

It is because the friendship and relations between our two countries are entirely different from those between capitalist states. Our relations are based on the fundamental interests of the peoples of both countries. They are relations between two countries that belong to the people. They are relations of fraternal mutual help; they are relations between Stalin and Mao Tse-tung. In these relations there is no deceit, competition, mutual exclusion or extortion between each other or oppression and plunder of the one by the other—as is inherent among the capitalist countries.

As Comrade Malenkov has said, the mutual relations between our two countries are in fact "an example of entirely new relations between states, not met with before in history. They are based on the principles of equal rights, economic co-operation and respect for national independence. Faithful to its treaties of mutual assistance, the U.S.S.R. is rendering, and will continue to render, assistance and support in the further consolidation and development of these countries (meaning the People's Democracies)." These mutual relations are precisely what Comrade Stalin referred to when he discussed the economic co-operation between the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies. He said: "The experience of this co-operation shows that not a single capitalist country could have rendered such effective and technically competent assistance to the People's Democracies as the Soviet Union is rendering them. The point is not only that this assistance is the cheapest possible and technically superb. The chief point is that at the bottom of this co-operation lies a sincere desire to help one another and to promote the economic progress of all."

It is precisely because the mutual relations between our two countries are of this kind that the friendship and unity between the peoples of our two countries are enduring, indestructible and impervious to any attack.

Among us Communists and working people, the advanced are always ready to give more help to the backward. The Soviet Union is obviously the most advanced among the People's Democracies. In the matter of mutual assistance, the Soviet Union always gives more help to China and the other People's Democracies. We are sincerely grateful to the Soviet Government and people for their faithful and selfless assistance in various fields to our country and people.

Comrades! The Soviet Union is our model and teacher. The path traversed by the Soviet Union is and will be our path. Today, while we are celebrating the constant strengthening of the friendship and alliance between China and the Soviet Union, we must bring to the attention of all the task of learning from the Soviet Union.

Beginning this year, our country entered the stage of large-scale, planned construction. To get our country's construction work done well, we must exert ourselves to learn from the Soviet Union, regard the earnest study and application of advanced Soviet experience as one of the primary conditions for pushing forward our country's construction work.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung has said: "We are going to carry on our great national construction. The work facing us is hard and we do not have enough experience. So we must seriously study the advanced experience of the Soviet Union. Whether inside or outside the Communist Party, old or new cadres, technicians, intellectuals, workers or peasants we must all learn whole-heartedly from the Soviet Union. We must learn not only the theories of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, but also the advanced scientific techniques of the Soviet Union. There must be a great nation-wide upsurge of learning from the Soviet Union to build our country."

Thus, in face of our great work of national construction, all government organs, organisations, factories, schools and villages throughout the country and units of the People's Liberation Army should, in accordance with Comrade Mao Tse-tung's directive, zealously develop the movement to learn from the Soviet Union.

The publication of Comrade Stalin's great work *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.* and the convocation of the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have provided inestimable help to the Chinese people in the work of constructing their own country. People all over China are displaying great enthusiasm in the study

of Stalin's work and the documents of the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Every one of us acquires from these documents a correct knowledge of the present basic world situation, understands why our cause is sure to win, by what methods and on what forces to rely, so that we can win victory. We should continue to pursue this study and raise the level of the study of the Soviet Union among the people throughout the country to a higher stage.

With Soviet assistance and illumined by the light of advanced Soviet ideology and experience, the cause of our construction will certainly be victorious. By relying on the friendship, unity and close co-operation between the two great peoples of China and the Soviet Union, we can certainly shatter the aggressive schemes of imperialism.

Long live the great, unbreakable friendship and alliance between China and the Soviet Union!

Long live Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people!

Long live the great Comrade Stalin, most respected and beloved friend of the Chinese people and the leader and teacher of the working people throughout the world!

