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GEHEIM

Land: China.
Onderwerp: Peiping's views on "inevitability" of war.

Referenties:

(Handwritten initials)

Datum van waarneming: Eerste helft april 1960.

Bron: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

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's-GRAVENHAGE.

GEHEIM

The Chinese Communist party, in the current issue of its theoretical journal Red Flag, makes its most categorical statement thus far that war is probable--and in some instances, inevitable--as long as "imperialism" exists. Using the 90th anniversary of Lenin's birth as a springboard, the journal warns Chinese Communists away from the pronouncements Khrushchev has made on the nature of the contest with the West. It implicitly criticizes the Soviet premier for a less dynamic opposition to "imperialism" than Peiping feels is required by its own and world Communist objectives. The article is another example of the Chinese leaders' readiness to manipulate basic doctrine in justification of their own policies.

The Red Flag article is aimed at Khrushchev's justification for a detente--his proposition that bloc strength has progressed to a point where the "inevitable war" theory, so useful to the USSR as a spur to discipline and production during its earlier years, may be put aside in favor of "peaceful competition." The Chinese are attempting to empty the coexistence thesis of all meaning, buttressing their arguments with selected quotations from Lenin and the sayings of Mao Tse-tung.

Red Flag insists that "imperialism" has not changed and cannot change and that its economic system breeds war because it is based on "exploitation and oppression." It states that "the imperialist policy of plunder is bound to lead to war." This contrasts vividly with Khrushchev's statement to the Soviet 21st party congress that "there will be created real possibilities for eliminating war as a means of settling international issues." The Chinese stress that the "war maniacs" can only be thwarted by "fighting tooth and nail."

The journal claims that "within imperialism," colonial and civil wars are "inevitable" and that those fighting "imperialism" deserve strong bloc support. In a remark apparently intended to take issue with Khrushchev's insistence that the USSR will not aggressively export Communism, Red Flag states that to ignore such wars would be "extreme opportunism" and would betray the "socialist revolution."

While the Chinese emphasize the "inevitability" of "imperialist" wars, they skirt a direct pronouncement that a major East-West war is equally certain. Nevertheless, Red Flag conjures up for its readers the now-familiar image of implacable US hostility. "The peace desired by US imperialism is a peace which provides for US domination of the whole globe--it is peace for the purpose of eliminating socialism." Red Flag charges that to realize its ambition, the United States is paying "lip service to peace" while preparing for a world war and "actively conducting" limited wars.

Red Flag's diatribe reflects the value Peiping places on having an external enemy with which to goad its people toward greater efforts, as well as frustration with the effect a prolonged detente would have on Communist China's ambitions to

eliminate US influence in Taiwan and the western Pacific. Quoting Lenin, Red Flag states, "We are surrounded by people, classes, and governments who openly express the greatest hatred for us." With implications which could hardly be lost on Khrushchev, the Chinese draw again from Lenin to express their irritation: "Whoever has thought that it is easy to attain peace--that one has only to mention the word and the bourgeoisie will present it on a silver platter--is a very naive person."

STATEMENTS ON WAR

SOVIET	CHINESE
"Only peaceful coexistence and peaceful competition between the two systems can prevent war."	"I think the American people and the people of all countries menaced by US aggression should unite to repel the attacks of US reactionaries and their lackeys. Only victory in this struggle can avert a third world war; it can not be averted otherwise."
Joint Soviet-Polish statement, 22 July 1959.	Mao Tse-tung, quoted by <u>Red Flag</u> , 1 January 1960.