

# HUA WAVES FLAG FOR U.S.—NATO BLOC

Prime Minister Hua Kuo-feng of China recently completed his three-week tour of Western Europe, stopping off in France, West Germany, Britain and Italy. But while the press made much of the fact that this is the first time a Chinese head of state has ever travelled to the west, the fanfare was decidedly low-key. In spite of his formal posts as Party Chairman and Prime Minister, it is well known that Hua is little more than an errand boy for Teng Hsiao-ping and the rest of the Chinese revisionist ruling class. And it didn't take long to figure out just what sort of drumbeating errand Hua was running.

According to Hua, the purpose of his

grand tour was to reach "a better understanding of the realities of your advanced countries so as to inspire me in the modernization program I have in mind." But China's sagging plans for capitalist-style "modernization" have hardly been inspiring of late, scaled way down because of China's glaring lack of ability to pay. Despite the usual routine of inspecting factories, huddling with bankers and generally drooling over advanced technology, no concrete deals were signed and none were expected. It was quickly apparent that the real reason for Hua's trip was to do a little flagrant flag-waving for the U.S. imperialist war bloc and to reaffirm the Chinese rulers' support for a strong,

united NATO—armed to the teeth—aligned against the Soviet Union.

At every opportunity, Hua called for strengthened cooperation between the Western countries and China to oppose a "war of aggression" by the Soviets. In France, he urged resistance to Soviet "expansionism" and warned that "we cannot let Vietnam do in Indochina what Cuba did in Africa." In Italy he enthusiastically endorsed U.S. plans to deploy long-range nuclear missiles in Europe aimed directly at the Soviet Union. In Britain he railed that "Peace cannot be got by begging. War cannot be averted by yielding."

To emphasize that the war camp of the U.S. imperialists should toughen up, in Paris, Hua drove to the Arc de Triomphe and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This sickening gesture glorifying the French imperialists' wars of plunder (including in China itself!) was followed by Hua with a tribute to Charles de Gaulle as a man who "safeguarded France's national independence," a fitting illustration of the Chinese rulers' new brand of "proletarian internationalism."

Hua even ran out his version of the line, by now hollow and monotonous, about "peace in our time," pushed by the U.S. imperialists. In Bonn, West Germany, he said, "it is entirely possible to delay the outbreak of war and achieve long-lasting world peace," provided, of course, that the forces of peace "block with all effective means the aggression and expansion of hegemonism." He has proved very capable of imitating the U.S. imperialists right down to covering blatant calls for arming to the teeth with pious promises of "peace through strength."

But in spite of his blatant war-mongering for NATO and his general

kowtowing to the interests of U.S. imperialism, there was nothing about Hua's trip to fundamentally contradict the very real likelihood that China will eventually be forced to capitulate to the Soviet social-imperialists who, after all, pose a more immediate danger to China than the U.S., with a million troops poised for attack along the 4500-mile border. In fact, recent developments in China (article page 3) have cast an interesting light on some of China's motives for currying favor with the West.

China's recent moves toward striking a deal with the Soviets have lent Hua's European diplomacy something of the character of a two-edged sword. While firming up their relationships with the U.S. bloc, at the same time the Chinese rulers stand to gain considerable bargaining leverage with the Soviets should they be forced to do an about-face. The U.S.-NATO connection will certainly "up the ante," politically and economically, for the Soviets if they want to pull China away from the U.S. And the fact that China is getting more and more hooked on economic injections from the West would certainly not preclude such a turnabout. Even the Soviet Union itself is a heavy importer of western investment and technology.

While the Chinese revisionists are presently polishing up the combat boots for the Western war machine, they are not putting all of their C-rations into a single basket. As Hua wined and dined at Buckingham Palace with such luminaries of Western reaction as Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, it was clear that capitulation was definitely on the menu, despite appearances. But the ultimate question of capitulation to *whom*—the U.S. or the Soviets—has by no means been settled.