

# China leader blazes trail in U.S.

## Teng hunts technology, warns of war

Teng Hsiao-ping's historic trip was a landmark in the warming of relations between the US and China after a 30 year freeze. Teng wore a smile and a white ten gallon hat as he checked out the most advanced technology the US has to offer. And he was firing a six-gun loaded with warnings about the threat of world war from the Soviet Union.

The US and China will have trade, cultural and diplomatic relations. The Chinese hope to use these contacts as leverage to stave off the onset of war and to further the struggle of the people of the world. The forthright Teng makes no bones about the Chinese view that the Soviet Union is the true hotbed of war in the world today.

As the two leaders began three days of conferences, a few hundred supporters of the Taiwan dictatorship waved picket signs outside the White House fence. The demonstrators claim that a handful of militarists and sweatshop operators on an off-shore island are the true rulers of China. This has been absurd since the Chinese revolution drove Chiang Kai-Shek from the mainland 30 years ago. The Taiwan regime, always a creation of the US, now dangles like a puppet with many of its strings cut.

As the two world leaders exchanged comments, Carter mentioned to Teng that he had been in China as a naval lieutenant in 1949. He said he had seen the campfires of the communist troops in the hills surrounding the port city he stopped in. Teng, a former military leader and a veteran of the famous "Long March," remembered the scene. "Those were my troops," he replied.

This memory underlined how much things have changed in the world since then. After 30 years of Communist Party leadership, the Chinese revolution is consolidated, an undeniable force in the world. Over the same period the US has declined from its

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post-World War II pre-eminence. It is now on the strategic defensive. The different positions of the two countries are even reflected in the personalities of the two leaders. Teng is bold and self-confident. Carter always looks self-conscious and overly humble.

## CHINA LOOKS TO MODERNIZE

One of the purposes of the trip was to strengthen trade and technology contacts. The drive to modernize has become the central campaign of the Chinese people. Now Chinese peasants labor for the most part without the aid of machinery, often carrying heavy loads on their backs with shoulder poles. Stamped metal for automobiles is carried from place to place in Chinese auto plants by hand.

In Atlanta, the 74 year-old communist leader toured a Ford Motor Company plant. He took it all in, checking out the heavily automated

factory which last year produced 14 times as many cars as were made in all of China.

In Houston, Teng was especially interested in the Hughes Tool plant. Hughes makes some of the world's most advanced oil drilling equipment. Tapping China's huge oil reserves is an important part of the Chinese Communist Party's plan to modernize the country by the year 2000. They see oil as an export product to be exchanged for foreign technology, and as a fuel for the drive to modernize.

Also in Houston, the Chinese Vice-Premier took a simulated ride in a space capsule at the LBJ space center. The Chinese have set high scientific goals for themselves. In many fields like medicine and geology, they have already made noteworthy contributions, for example acupuncture and earthquake prediction.

Teng's Houston space ride was symbolic of China's whole thrust into

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the future. The now discredited "Gang of 4" used to say, "When the satellite goes up, the red flag comes down to the ground." They opposed the campaign to modernize China, initiated by Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai, with the ridiculous logic that this would lead to the downfall of socialism. One of their policies was to turn China's schools into arenas for ideological debate with no emphasis on basic education or research.

Because Teng held strongly to the belief that the country must modernize, the Gang of 4 went all to knock him from power, succeeding briefly in 1976. But more and more people began to see that the Gang's policies were harming China and the socialism they claimed to uphold. Later that year, following Mao's death, the four isolated careerists made a desperate grab for complete power. Their failure signalled Teng's political comeback. Although the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung did much to help set up the downfall of the gang, he him-

self couldn't finish the job. Teng's leadership provided a rallying point against them.

The current Chairman and Premier, Hua Kuo-feng, and Teng generalised the beginnings of the aggressive modernization effort that eventually led to Teng's recent US trip.

At most of Teng's stops he had to put up with a raggedy crowd of demonstrators. The group, the Revolutionary Communist Party, claims to be the true followers of Mao Tse-tung and comrades of the fallen Gang. In front of the White House they waved red books, screamed that Teng is bringing capitalism back to China, and ended up in jail when they charged police lines. Indistinguishable from some of the other cults in the news lately, these self-styled revolutionaries attack the people and ideals Mao Tse-tung devoted his life to.

Everywhere Teng went he issued warnings about the aggressive behavior of the "Polar Bear," his term for the Soviet Union. In his private talks with Carter and his advisors, it's very likely that Teng emphasized

the Soviet-backed Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia, the Soviet-Cuban put down of the Eritrean revolution in the Horn of Africa, as well as the Soviet backed coups in South Yemen and Afghanistan. His constantly recurring theme was that the Soviets are an expansive imperialist power, using the name of socialism and liberation to mask their drive for world domination, or hegemonism.

The proposal Teng made to the US ruling class was for China, Japan, Western Europe, and the US to line up in opposition to the rampant aggressive moves of the Soviets. The Chinese have traditionally aimed their efforts at both superpowers, the US and the USSR. Since the 1960's, they have successfully rallied independent underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America against the expansionary moves of the two big powers. Increasingly, the Chinese have also swung some of the more developed capitalist countries against superpower hegemony.

Now because the Soviet Union is so openly on the prowl, China is even

encouraging the US to openly line up against Russian expansionism. Teng makes no secret that he thinks the US policy of detente is foolish. He told the editor of Time magazine that arms limitation treaties between the US and the USSR are meaningless. Far more significant, he pointed out, are China's present efforts to line up forces against the marauding polar bear.

The Chinese haven't forgotten the lessons of Korea and Vietnam, two wars waged by the US on their very borders. They know the US government is still predatory by nature. But they are trying to take advantage of the defensive posture the US imperialists are forced to take in the present situation. One of Mao's main battle plans was to divide his enemies and tackle them one by one. This is evidently the policy the Chinese are continuing to apply.

The Teng Hsiao-ping trip will go down in history as one of the most momentous events of the decade. For the American people, it makes some important offers - the chance to get to know the Chinese people, one fourth of the world's population, and their socialist system, and a chance to plan to delay the outbreak of a new world war.