

pursuing that course. The Administration's contingent policy prescriptions vis a vis the Chinese, however, amount to playing verbal games and conceding nothing substantive on the Taiwan question. An indication of how this will be received in Peking was suggested by an unofficial, but probably authorized attack on the Vance-Carter stalling in the pro-Peking New Evening Post Feb.

28: "The question Mr. Carter and Mr. Vance should answer is whether normalization will be achieved this year, and the more urgent question they should answer is whether and how the defense treaty will be scrapped." Mr. Brzezinski may learn fairly soon the consequences of following a utopian policy in this area of the world.

The Soviet Watch On China

A Feb. 9 *Pravda* column signed "Observer" was the first Soviet commentary since the death of Mao Tse-tung to be severely critical of the Chinese leadership. The Soviets are piqued at the continuation of anti-Soviet diatribes in the Chinese press despite the hiatus of anti-Chinese reports in the Soviet press.

Two weeks later, the Soviet Union withdrew its negotiator, Ilychev, from Peking, after he was no longer received by his Chinese counterpart. However, a Feb. 27 article in *Red Star* and *Pravda* indicated that the Soviets understand that at the present moment there is really no firm leadership yet in China although the campaign against the Maoist faction is still growing.

Pravda, Feb. 9: "the author (of the article in the Chinese press—ed.) issued an anti-Soviet attack, in the spirit of the proponents of the 'cold War' and of inflaming international tensions. Resorting to outlived, long-discredited myths on the Soviet threat, he asserts that supposedly 'the Soviet Union has not for a minute renounced its thoughts of enslaving our country.' ...This appeal to the thesis of the Soviet threat in no way corresponds to the interests of the Chinese people and plays into the hands of the opponents of socialism and of easing of international tensions...."

The Struggle Against The 'Gang Of Four' In China

The Soviet Communist Party paper Pravda published the following article Feb. 26, filed by the TASS bureau in Peking:

The campaign against the "group of four" in China is taking on a constantly greater scale and is described by the leadership as the central task of 1977. In Peking alone, according to official Chinese data, over 50,000 meetings and party conferences have been held in recent

months, for condemnation of the "four." Twenty million people took part in these assemblies, according to the same data.

This campaign is being waged under the slogan of truth to the "revolutionary ideas of Mao Tse-tung." At the same time, attention is drawn to anti-Soviet statements which are being carried to the absurd.

Criticism of the "four" is accompanied by the "Jen Fen" movement. Judging from material in the Chinese press, the "Jen Fen" movement is spread throughout the party and state apparatus at all levels.

In order to conduct the purge in the provinces, autonomous regions, districts, and cities, special "brigades" have been created, including in many instances representatives of the armed forces.

Reports have appeared on new appointments on the ministerial level and of provincial and military district leaders. However, as deputy chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Yao Lien-wei stated there is still not clarity in the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party concerning the replacements for several leadership posts at the center. From the Politburo of the CCPOC elected at the 10th Congress—composed of 21 members and four candidates—16 people remain. According to the assertions of Yao Lien-wei, "since criticism of the 'group of four' has not yet been completed, one should not speak of any conditions for convening a congress of the CPC or a session of the NPC."

Foreign correspondents in Peking, referring to reliable Chinese sources, report the appearance in individual provinces of wall posters condemning official persons who have "shown restraint" in criticism of Chiang Ching.

From materials published in China and reports from foreign information agencies, it is evident that the situation in the PRC remains complex, and the very development of events has a quite contradictory character.