

Kissinger wrote the script for President Reagan's trip to China

by Linda de Hoyos

From the standpoint of United States national interests, the trip of President Ronald Reagan to China crystalized the takeover of U.S. foreign policy by Henry Kissinger and the disaster that implies.

Reagan's visit to Peking was an exercise in public relations for the audience back home, and otherwise a humiliation, as the President was treated to lectures from the Chinese leadership on how to conduct U.S. foreign policy. The only saving grace of the President's sojourn was the nuclear technology transfer deal signed between the two countries. But the very fact that the United States is willing to bend over backward to give China nuclear technology, while it systematically acts to sabotage the transfer of such technology to other underdeveloped countries, has astonished America's allies, especially in Asia itself.

'No strategic partnership'

The Chinese were not prepared to offer anything in return. To Reagan's offer of an alliance with the West against the Soviet Union, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang politely but firmly stated that there would be no strategic partnership between Washington and Peking. This had already been stated by Zhao during his January trip to the United States, but this time the Chinese left out all attacks on the Soviet Union as the chief aggressor in the world strategic game. In a reverse of stated policy, Zhao demanded that the United States cease its deployment of Pershing missiles in Western Europe, and, to keep the balance, asked the Soviet Union to stop its "countermeasures" to the Pershings. "If the two sides continue their deployment of these missiles there will inevitably be progressive escalation of the arms race in Europe which will aggravate international tensions," Zhao said. Zhao also scored the President for U.S.—that is, Henry Kissinger's—policy toward Central America. The United States is "aggravating" tensions there as well, he lectured. Zhao also criticized American policy toward the Middle East.

And although Chinese leaders have in the recent past reiterated their view that the Soviet Union constitutes the major threat, Reagan's attacks on Soviet aggression worldwide were censored from Peking broadcasts of the President's speeches, along with all of the President's references

to God, freedom, and free enterprise. To these affronts, the President could only kowtow: "I have a dream in my heart that we perhaps have started a friendship here between two great people—not an alliance. I admire the position of being non-aligned that you have. But being friends and neighbors [sic]."

The Kissinger formula

Yet, for those who want to destroy the United States, President Ronald Reagan's China trip was, as Secretary of State George Shultz declared on television April 30, "worthwhile in almost every respect you can think of." This evaluation of the great success in Peking was the line coming from Henry Kissinger's associates in the Reagan administration, including National Security Adviser Robert MacFarlane.

The reason for this evaluation is not to be sought in the background briefings delivered prior to the trip by the State Department and senior administration officials. The real script for the President's trip to China was prepared and released to the public on Oct. 28, 1983, by Henry Kissinger in a speech before the Hong Kong Trade Fair Conference. In every point, the actual results of the Reagan trip conform to the stated policy desires of the former Secretary of State and Soviet agent of influence:

1) First, the Reagan trip to China is part of a general shift of attention toward the Pacific, and away from Europe. "The center of gravity of world affairs, is in my view, shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific. . . . If one looks at the dynamic and growing areas of the world, one finds those in the societies that ring the Pacific."

2) The Reagan-Chinese talks were negotiations of a largely geopolitical nature among imperial powers. "The security and independence of China is of vital American interest. . . . What this reflects is a fundamental reality, and it is that the *balance of power* in the world would be as irrevocably overturned by an assault on China, as it would be by an assault on Europe."

3) This balance of power does *not* require a strategic partnership between the United States and China. "When we talk about equilibrium and the balance of power, it is quite

possible that two countries have, for limited objectives, parallel views and pursue parallel objectives without being in any sense in any alliance,” Kissinger said, speaking of China.

4) The development of Japan as a major strategic partner of the United States should be circumscribed. “I do not think it is wise for the United States to press Japan to build up its defense forces.” The only top administration official who currently objects to this policy is Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

5) China should be the major operative in offsetting growing Soviet power in Indochina. “As far as the United States is concerned, there is no partisan dispute about the importance of the independence and the security of this area, and as far as the danger from Vietnam is concerned, one has the impression that China, without any consultation with us, has reached similar conclusions. So we have here an example of a balance of power operating that is not a formal feature of the scene, but an important aspect of the picture.”

6) And lastly, the United States will abandon its allies in ASEAN (Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia) to the hegemony of China and the Soviet Union. “Southeast Asia has, as far as the United States is concerned, governments that are neither allies nor are they—considered strictly—countries with which we have a very friendly relationship.”

These are the outlines of the policy toward Asia that the Reagan administration has adopted *in practice*, and which were in place before the President’s trip to China. The negotiations between the Kissinger forces and the Chinese on these points had already occurred during a private trip to Peking in late February by former Trilateral Commission executive director and Carter administration National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Brzezinski’s trip certainly did not have the high-publicity profile of the Reagan trip, but was undoubtedly when the substance of the U.S.-China relationship was hammered out. For several days, Brzezinski held seminars with the top echelons of the Chinese leadership, under the auspices of Georgetown University’s Center for Strategic and International Studies (to which Kissinger is also attached).

In short, there is no content to the shift to the Pacific—with the possible exception of taking the opportunities for looting offered by the relatively high economic growth rates of the Asian economies. Militarily and politically, the shift toward the Pacific is no more than a cover for the shift *away from Western Europe—the policy of decoupling stated openly by Henry Kissinger in his March 5 Time magazine article*. But, as former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre noted recently, “Without Western Europe, the United States ceases to be a superpower”—in Europe or Asia.

What is the ‘China Card’?

The objective of Kissinger’s China Card policy—as in the early 1970s—is not really to create an alliance against the Soviet Union, but to provide the cover for the strategic with-

drawal of American ground forces and influence from the Pacific basin overall. That policy is also the policy of the Reagan administration *in practice*. A major signal to this effect was the cancellation of President Reagan’s trip to Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia in November.

In the Philippines, as *EIR* documented in its April 3 cover story, the U.S. State Department is openly promoting groups opposed to President Ferdinand Marcos, which have stated that one of their primary goals is to force the withdrawal of the U.S. bases from the islands. The United States is already reportedly investigating the possibility of moving the bases to Indonesia—which is unlikely—or to the nearby island of Palau.

In Southeast Asia, the Reagan administration told visiting Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond on April 13 that the United States would leave it up to China and Thailand to deal with Vietnam’s attacks on the Khmer rebels in Cambodia and the Vietnamese incursions into Thailand. “We don’t want to get involved,” one U.S. official reportedly stated. Furthermore, while the Reagan administration says it will accede to the Thai request for the purchase of F-16s, if the Thais refuse to buy other less-advanced jet fighters, administration officials admit that the request will not be met without some delay. The Reagan administration further gave a green light to China for its attacks on Vietnam. According to one report, Prem and the President agreed that the Chinese attacks on Vietnam’s northern border were “helpful” in placing pressure on Hanoi.

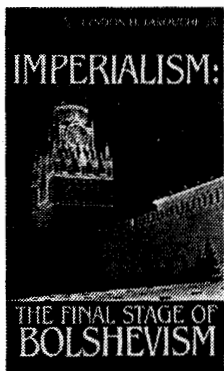
The State Department further put its imprimatur on the enhanced role given to China in the region through statements delivered by Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz in Indonesia May 4. China’s growing economic and political ties to the West are having a “very constructive influence” in Asia, Wolfowitz said. This is the kind of statement that can only propel Jakarta toward the Soviet Union, which has already given Indonesia the assurance that it is not on its list of nuclear targets, in contrast to Japan, South Korea, or the Philippines.

Withdrawal from Europe

With the United States ceding the area to Soviet military power and Chinese political and economic influence, what then is the content of the much-touted turn toward the Pacific by the Reagan administration?

The answer to that question was given by Zbigniew Brzezinski in a stopover Feb. 27 in Manila after his visit to Peking. The basic orientation of American policy is now “dramatically shifting” toward the Pacific basin, Brzezinski said. “Increasingly the American view is that Europe is beginning to stagnate and is becoming obsolescent, and this is having a negative political, international effect, and the Europeans are becoming less confident, less dynamic.” This shift from Europe, he said, could be gleaned by looking at the activities of American banks and companies. “We are living at a time of genuinely historical transformation.”

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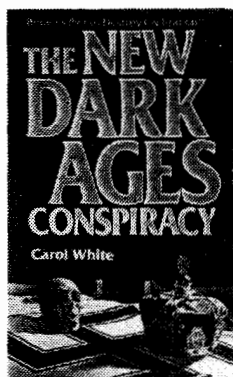
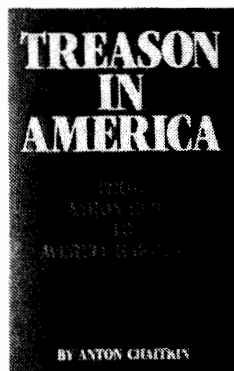
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