

failure to subdue the Vietnamese. It is absolutely true that imperialism's failures in Southeast Asia have brought on both a political and economic crisis for the monopolists. But is Nixon opening up a diplomatic offensive with the Soviet Union and China in order to sue for peace, which he could do at Paris, or to recoup U.S. losses and reorganize for a new and (he hopes) more successful aggression?

Let us look at the realities. The U.S. has not withdrawn from Southeast Asia. On the contrary, it still maintains over 200,000 combat troops in Vietnam, and recent Pentagon disclosures show that plans are already laid out for military campaigns in Cambodia through 1977! For Nixon to be invited to come to the capitals of either socialist ally while there are daily bombings cannot be encouraging to the Vietnamese liberation fighters.

In addition, the U.S. continues to bolster its position in the strategic Middle East, sending more Phantom jets to Israel, lending all its authority to the most tyrannical puppets like the Shah and King Hussein, and shoring up the NATO southern flank by promoting the Greek fascists while sending the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to Spain to integrate another fascist state into its European military alliance.

On the general military front, Laird in a Pentagon press briefing has voiced dire warnings about the Soviet Union's missile system capabilities, laying the groundwork for another escalation of the arms budget. The Pentagon is also demanding more billions to expand the Navy, citing the growth of the Soviet fleet as a pretext.

The point is that imperialism has not changed its basic nature, nor has it resigned itself to the existence and development of socialism in the world. U.S. diplomatic strategy, like all aspects of their foreign policy, is calculated to find a breathing spell at the bargaining table while they make preparations to renew the expansion on which the health of their system depends.

We have no argument with those who say that the socialist countries must try and normalize relations with the capitalist nations. But it is false to imply that the only way in which diplomatic state relations can be normalized is by inviting Nixon to the capitals of the socialist world to engage the most hated imperialist leader in secret discussions.

The larger issue is whether Nixon's visits will serve the interests of developing socialism in China and the Soviet Union, as well as the international struggle of the working class. We think it would be better if he stayed here. And it would be 100 times better if we were able to sharpen the growing revolutionary struggle here and make it impossible for him to leave.

PEOPLE'S CHINA AND THE UN

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by NAOMI COHEN

The 20-year-old China debate in the United Nations came to a sudden end on October 25 with a resounding victory for the People's Republic of China. When the votes were tallied, an unprecedented demonstration of joy by the sponsors and supporters of the Albanian resolution broke out. Every progressive-minded person, and needless to say, every revolutionary, must have watched that scene with the same sense of victory. It marked the end of 20 years of efforts by U.S. imperialism to isolate and destroy the revolution in China.

The celebration of China's victory was also clearly an anti-imperialist demonstration — as Washington immediately recognized. An angry protest from President Nixon was quick to characterize the outburst as offensive and undignified, a "shocking demonstration" of "undisguised glee" and "personal animosity" toward American policy.

The vote of the General Assembly was a major setback for U.S. imperialism and a striking reflection of the decline of U.S. monopoly capital internationally. Not only had the socialist and newly independent, anti-imperialist countries voted against the U.S. phony "two Chinas" resolution, but Washington's most powerful allies (with the single exception of Japan) deserted the U.S. cause like rats from a sinking ship. Britain, Belgium, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Turkey, to name only a few, voted to seat People's China and throw the Chiang clique out. The bankrupt U.S. policy unceremoniously collapsed.