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1. YUGOSLAV-SOVIET COMMUNIQUES

Comment on:

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The communique on party relations issued at the conclusion of President Tito's visit to the USSR reveals agreement to expand party contacts considerably. The framework for increased party relations conforms closely to the preconditions set by Yugoslavia.

The two parties acknowledged that "the roads and conditions of socialist development are different in different countries." The declaration states that party co-operation "should be based on complete freedom of will and equality, on friendly criticism, and on the comradely character of exchange of views on disputes between our parties."

References to the pressing need for "co-operation of all progressive and peaceful forces" suggest that the Yugoslavs may assume leadership in developing popular fronts and increased international contacts between Communist and Socialist parties.

A separate governmental communique issued simultaneously does little more than document the issues on which Tito has previously indicated agreement with the USSR. It supported Communist China's admission to the UN, endorsed the cut in Soviet forces as a step toward partial disarmament, urged talks between East and West Germany to bring about reunification, supported the removal of obstacles to free trade, and called for aid to underdeveloped countries through the UN. The communique proposed no new measures in bilateral governmental relations, but merely endorsed a continued expansion of trade and scientific and cultural relations. [redacted]

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2. OKINAWA LAND ISSUE CAUSING PRE-ELECTION FUROR IN JAPAN

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[Redacted]

A recommendation by an American congressional committee that the United States purchase additional land for bases on Okinawa, as well as land now being leased, has caused a furor in Japan, according to Ambassador Allison. He feels the Japanese government may be forced into a firm stand against the United States on this issue in order not to handicap the government party's chances in the upper house election on 8 July.

Ambassador Allison emphasizes that the Socialist Party has been quick to exploit the Okinawa land issue and the testimony before a congressional committee that American bases in Japan can be retained permanently. The Japanese press is uniformly critical of American policy on Okinawa, and several major newspapers have said that the USSR certainly will make no territorial concessions as long as the United States retains its Okinawa base.

Comment

The Socialist Party, hard-pressed in the present election campaign to counteract the damage its prestige suffered from its roughhouse tactics in the Diet, may use the Okinawa issue to revive agitation on the question of American bases in Japan proper.

Although the United States had announced previously that Japan retains residual sovereignty over Okinawa while the USSR has actually annexed the Kurils, many Japanese find the legal distinction unconvincing. During the Japanese-Soviet talks in London, which were suspended in March, Soviet representative Malik accused the Japanese of inconsistency in demanding the return of south Sakhalin and the Kurils while accepting American occupation of the Ryukyus and Bonins.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 20 June)

Israel permitted UN observers on 13 June to inspect the Syrian-Israeli demilitarized zone near Banat Yacov, where the Israelis were reported building tactical defensive positions. The inspection disclosed two shelters which are considered legitimate civil defense installations and a reinforced room allegedly designed for POL storage. The nature of two additional installations, previously tentatively identified as bunkers, could not be determined as they had been recently covered with dirt. The chairman of the Israeli-Syrian military armistice commission said he would have to report his investigation as "incomplete." Though he was of the opinion that these installations were "purely a local effort," he believes that settlers in the area are violating the general armistice agreement. An inspection of alleged Israeli fortifications was also permitted at another post, apparently in the demilitarized zone on the southeastern shore of Lake Tiberias. The observers found a perimeter of defense positions "mostly old, but with some signs of recent work," which were clearly designed to protect the Ein Gev settlement.

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