

Soviet Paper Features China's Fight on Bureaucracy

By SAM RUSSELL

MOSCOW

THE "full gale of debate" blowing through China around Mao Tse-tung's "off the cuff" speeches is arousing considerable interest.

The recent visit of President Voroshilov and a party of leading Soviet Ministers and Communist Party leaders to China has, no doubt, given these Soviet leaders a closer understanding of just what the Chinese leaders think about these matters.

The text of some "off the cuff" conversations between Chinese and Soviet leaders have now been published here.

Of particular interest in this connection is the conversation which took place between Premier Chou En-lai, S. Rashidov (who is President of the Uzbek Republic, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the U.S.S.R.), and S. Yudin, Soviet Ambassador to China.

The conversation took place at Hangchow Airport, and has been published by the newspaper "Druzhba," which means "Friendship."

AFTER some preliminary greetings, conversation went like this:

RASHIDOV: "It is usually difficult for leading comrades to find time for travel."

CHOU EN-LAI: "That's so, but

it's necessary to travel more often. If one sits all the time in Peking one can very quickly become a bureaucrat. Peking has very high city walls, and they can easily separate the leadership from the masses of the people."

RASHIDOV (jokingly): "But high walls have certain good points, surely? They prevent the spreading of bureaucracy."

CHOU EN-LAI (laughing): "And maybe the walls have another good point. If the masses rebel against bureaucracy the walls can serve as a defense for that bureaucracy."

"The trouble is that such defense is very unreliable, for the walls can easily be taken by storm. About 40 years ago such a thing happened, when our Peking students broke through the ancient walls in the city to fight against the bureaucrats and militarists of that time."

Then, pointing to the children who had come to welcome the guests with flowers, Chou En-lai said: "If we don't liquidate bureaucracy, they will take our walls by storm."

RASHIDOV: "I have heard that in China now an energetic struggle is being waged against bureaucracy."



CHOU EN-LAI

CHOU EN-LAI: "That is so.

"Our present drive for improving style of work is directed against subjectivism in ideology, against sectarianism in organizational work, and against bureaucracy in style of work."

"In the period from 1942 to 1944 we did a great deal to improve style of work. At that time we fought mainly against subjectivism in ideological questions,

and above all against dogmatism and sectarianism in organizational questions.

"Now, when the power is in our hands in the whole country and we have entered the period of Socialist construction, we must strengthen the unity of our people and improve our style of work."

"The improvement of style is a very good way ensuring our continuous forward movement and we must use this method now and in the future."

"Human beings are made in such a way that the slightest success may result in conceit—nor are Communists any exception in this respect—especially in time of victories. They think that if we have shortcomings the people will excuse them."

YUDIN: "Yes, the leaders usually always consider that if the people support them then no bureaucracy exists."

RASHIDOV: "And the trouble is that it usually happens that bureaucrats can't see the bureaucracy in their own work."

CHOU EN-LAI then turned to the children and said: "If in ten years the leaders are still bureaucrats then you must fight against them."

Turning back to his Soviet guests, Chou En-lai continued:

"Bureaucracy is a contradiction among the people. When the class struggle is over contradictions among the people become more noticeable."

"In our society, for instance, there are contradictions between the productive forces and productive relations, between the basis of the economy and the superstructure. At the same time, contradictions between the leadership and the masses may also appear in relations inside society."

YUDIN: "Yes, that is so. We also have such contradictions."

CHOU EN-LAI: "We admit these contradictions, investigate shortcomings and use various methods to eliminate them, for they give us the possibility of solving these contradictions."

All this is an indication of the way in which Chinese and Soviet Communist leaders have left far behind the dogmatic approach to the development of Communism in this new situation—in which Socialism has emerged from the boundaries of one country and has become a world system embracing over 900 million people.