

1949

Speeches/Documents

Title: Stalin's Conversation with the Liu Shaoqi Delegation on the Importance of the Chinese Revolution and Creating a Union of Asian Communist Parties

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Date:
July 1949

Source:. Uncertain partners Stalin , Mao and the Korean war pg. 232

Description:. China's role in Asia

[Stalin] said: "I never did like people who are flatterers, and when people pay me too many compliments, I feel disgusted with them. The things I am telling you about the successes of the Chinese Marxists, about the necessity for the Soviet people and the peoples of Europe to learn from you-absolutely does not mean that I am [trying to] buy your sympathy or giving you compliments. Because of the arrogance of the leaders of the European revolutionary movements after the death of Marx and Engels, the social-democratic movement in Europe began to lag behind in its development. The center of the revolution [then] shifted from the West to the East, and now it has shifted to China and East Asia. I am saying that you are already playing a significant role now, and you, of course, must not be arrogant. But at the same time, I assert that the responsibility that has been laid on you has grown even greater. You must fulfill your duty toward the revolutions in the countries of East Asia. Perhaps, on the general theoretical questions of Marxism, we, the Soviet people, are somewhat stronger than you. But if one speaks about the practical application of Marxist principles, then you have such great experience that we must learn from you. In the past, we have already learned a lot of things from you. One people should learn from the other. Even if it is a small people-it always has many such things that we can learn."

Stalin Remarks to Liu Shaoqi re Creating a Union of Asian Communist Parties, Answering Liu's question if China could become a member of the Cominform Stalin stated: "It can. But I consider that this is not so necessary. Why? Because there is a basic difference between the situations of the new democratic countries of Eastern Europe and China. Because of that, the policy that is carried out must not be the same in the two cases. In my opinion, there are two points that make China different from the countries of Eastern Europe. first point. ,China for a long time has been under the yoke of imperialism, which, I think, has still not abandoned its threats against China. , At present, China has to put in an enormous effort to resist the pressures from Imperialism. This IS the most characteristic feature of today's situation in China. This point is not characteristic of the new democratic countries [of Eastern Europe]. Second point. The bourgeoisie of China and the bourgeoisie of the East European countries are not the same. The bourgeoisie of the East European countries discredited itself by collaborating with the fascists during the period of fascist occupation and then had to evacuate along with the fascists. Because of that, the proletariat was able to establish its dictatorship and had every reason to confiscate the enterprises that belonged to the bourgeoisie. After that [the proletariat] quickly stepped onto the path of socialism. In fact, what the countries of Eastern Europe have are not proletarian dictatorships but people's democracies-parliaments and people's fronts are the organs running them.

There is an entirely different situation in China. The Chinese bourgeoisie during the period of the Japanese occupation did not surrender to the Japanese and did not evacuate with them. When the Chinese people stood up in the struggle against America and Chiang Kai-shek, [the bourgeoisie] did not collaborate with the Americans or Chiang Kai-shek. Because of that, the Chinese revolutionary government had no grounds to act against the national bourgeoisie or to take over its enterprises [and put them] under [the government's] own management. In China, it is still not possible to establish the revolutionary power of a proletarian dictatorship. The revolutionary power that exists in-China today is in fact a democratic dictatorship of workers and peasants, and the united national front and the Political Consultative Council are the forms in which it is manifested. That is basically different from the proletarian dictatorship that in fact exists in the countries of Eastern Europe [and that] manifests itself in the form of people's democracy parliaments, and people's fronts. '

The two above-mentioned points require that there be some not so small differences between the policies realized in China and the countries of Eastern Europe. For this reason, the CCP's entrance into the Cominform does not fit the moment. The situation in the countries of East Asia has a lot in common with the situation in China and creates the possibility for organizing a Union of East Asian Communist Parties. That would be more necessary and timely than the CCP's entrance into the Cominform. It may still be premature at this time to organize the Union of East Asian Communist Parties. Because the USSR is a country situated in both Europe and in Asia, it would take part in the Union of East Asian Communist Parties."