

July 12, 1965

SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Radio Distortions of PKI Positions

REF

It is clear from the limited opportunity available here to compare the Chinese Communist versions of PKI speeches and pronouncements as shown in FBIS reports with actual PKI positions that there is a considerable and, of course, understandable tendency of Chinese propaganda to distort the PKI line so as to make it appear even closer to the Chinese line than it actually is. PKI positions are indeed similar in most respects to Chinese positions but the Chinese take advantage of this general similarity of viewpoint to pick and choose those PKI statements which most closely support their positions and which make the PKI appear to have a virtually identical line with that of the CCP. Chinese Communist propaganda also quite naturally omits any PKI statements that point toward an independent viewpoint or which show a more lukewarm attitude on a given position than that adopted by the Chinese.

The FBIS "Bloc Survey" report of June 10 on the PKI's 45th Anniversary celebration makes the event appear much more of a pro-Chinese show than it in fact was. For example, after noting the display of portraits of Sukarno, Aidit, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin (but not Mao), the NCNA reporter said that Mao's portrait had been shown in regional displays. While it is conceivable that this may have occurred, the Embassy has no information that it did and no such portraits were observed by Embassy officers travelling during this period. It would almost seem as if the NCNA were trying to cover up Chinese disappointment that Mao's portrait had not been shown with the rest of the Communist pantheon in Djakarta, a fact that was noted by many observers, both Indonesian and foreign, and which aroused some curiosity.



State Department review completed

"B1 Approved For Release 2005/09/28 : HIA-JONES-2-D-6-1-0" a strongly worded introduction to Peng Chen's speech in Peking which was suppressed in Indonesia until after its publication in Peking and Moscow) in which he said that the PKI did not always immediately understand CCP pronouncements, but that it regarded CCP attitudes toward modern revisionism as "a signal light which serves as our beacon and guide." It is true that this warm introductory statement was made by Aidit and that criticism of the Soviet Union was implied in a remark rejecting accusations that the Chinese were too dogmatic and inflexible in opposing modern revisionists made "not by those who are already fully revisionist but (by) those who are one-third or one-half revisionist." * On the other hand, the Chinese presumably regard the CPSU leaders as more than the one-third or one-half revisionist that is stated by the PKI. Furthermore, there were other Aidit statements, as noted in A-926, that seemed to show a PKI desire to emphasize PKI independence which apparently were not picked up by NCNA, based on the "Bloc Survey" report.

Beyond these details, however, is the simple fact that the overall picture of PKI propaganda is more Indonesia-oriented and less China-oriented than would appear from a reading of the NCNA versions. All this is not to say that the PKI is not pro-Chinese; it obviously is. Nor is there any intention to criticize the excellent and essential FBIS coverage. The point is that considerable caution must be shown in using Chinese propaganda coverage of the PKI as an accurate guide to PKI attitudes whatever its value may be as an indication of Chinese attitudes.

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