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Solzhenitsyn Warns of China War

From News Dispatches

PARIS, March 2 — Exiled Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn has written Kremlin leaders urging them to give up the Soviet Union's world role to concentrate on developing Siberia as a defense against China.

Solzhenitsyn also called on Soviet leaders to give up their brand of Marxism and establish some individual freedoms. He warned that a continuation of a Marxist system could lead to "an ideological war with China" in which 60 million would die.

He said he wanted to "offer a way out of major perils threatening our country in the next 10 to 30 years" including war with China and the disappearance of the Soviet Union and Western civilization.

One of the ways "is to transfer the center of government concern and national activity from far away continents, and even from Europe on the south of our country, to the northeast. The development of the northeast is our best defense against China."

Northeastern Russia includes Siberia, where Solzhenitsyn spent several years in Soviet punishment camps after World War II.

His letter, sent to the Kremlin leadership in September 1973, was published in Russian here today by YMCA Press, which also published "Gulag Archipelago," the book detailing Stalinist terrors which brought Solzhenitsyn's expulsion from the Soviet Union last month. Solzhenitsyn wrote in an introduction that he had received no direct response to the letter.

When from Paris publication Solzhenitsyn urges (3/2/74) USSR leaders to give up world role and concentrate against China, with which he predicts war 10-30 years and 60,000,000 deaths, is it inappropriate to ask "Cui bobo?", Certainly not those emerging countries helped by the USSR. And certainly the US, which seeks to occupty a parrying position between China and USSR, exploiting both and the antipathy each has for the other. It seems odd that so soon after leaving involuntarily he sounds off on this of all possible themes. HW 3/3/74