

# Red China's Foreign Minister

Communist Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi recently granted a rare and lengthy interview in Peking to a Western newsman, Australian television producer John Dixon. Portions of the 1¾-hour exchange, distributed by the Herald Tribune News Service, follows:

Dixon asked why Peking is developing its own atomic weapons without Soviet help, "in view of Soviet assurances about the defense of China against foreign aggressors."

Said Chen, "In the first place, what is this Soviet assurance worth? If tomorrow we say to you Australians that we will make ourselves responsible for the defense of Australia, what value would you place upon it? How can any one nation say it will defend another?"

"This sort of promise is easy to make, but . . . worth less. Soviet protection is worth nothing to us."

He went on to say: "Atomic weapons are in use by other powers, so, therefore, we need atomic weapons for our defense. We will not be party to the triparty (U.S.-Britain-Soviet) treaty banning atomic tests. In fact, we regard this treaty as a form of blackmail applied against us."

"It is not binding on its members. Any member can give three months' notice and begin tests again. It is merely a plot to prevent China from acquiring her own means of defense."

"It may be 10, 15 or 20 years before China can solve the technical problems involved in making atomic weapons but however long it takes, we will do it!"

"We make a counterproposal to the Big Three now to destroy all atomic weapons. Go further and prohibit their manufacture and call a world meeting to discuss this."

Chen further offered these comments:

On Americans — Marshal Chen recalled the visits of American observers to the Communist base at Yen-an toward the end of World War



CHEN YI

. . . gives interview

## Airs Views on

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# Western World

Americans is that they love to play the role of protector. They act toward other peoples as if they're holier than thou. We've seen this in many instances — for example, the truce talks in Korea and the present Warsaw negotiations (between the U.S. and Chinese Ambassadors to Poland), which surely must be the longest-running talks in the history of diplomacy.

"They will not treat with us on a basis of equality."

"They must recognize that China, too, is a big country, that one day we're going to catch up with them in strength."

### Soviets Call Tune

"It's the same with the Soviets. They do not treat with us on a basis of equality. They think that they are an orchestra conductor and that we must always follow their baton. They act as if we must always listen to their orders."

"But this is their leadership. The Russian people are good and their social system is good. Khrushchev, in his policy toward China, is quite wrong. China insists that any negotiations must be conducted on a basis of equality!"

"The heavens will not fall down if we disagree with them. They can do as they

II, when the Chinese Communists were widely viewed as "agrarian reformers," and mentioned Gen. Joseph (Vinegar Joe) Stilwell, U.S. Commander in China; his successor, Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer; U.S. Ambassador to China Patrick J. Hurley, and Gen. George C. Marshall, who tried in vain to negotiate peace between the Communists and Chiang Kai-shek.

"You know we really have a lot of experience in dealing with the Americans. They came to us in Yen-an in April, 1945, and their observers stayed with us until 1948."

"A lot of individual Americans are very likable. For instance, Gen. Stilwell was a good man. He was an anti-Fascist and wanted to get on with the war."

"Hurley, on the other hand, we didn't like at all, and the same went for the Air Force Gen. Wedemeyer."

### Liked Gen. Marshall

"Gen. Marshall was a good man. We think he was sincere in his cooperation with us, in an effort to reach an agreement in those early days of the civil war."

"But a characteristic of the

please. But we will build up our own strength. The China question will only be solved by China standing up for herself."

**On China and Its Relations**  
—"China requires 100 years to become a modern state.

"We have made and we will

make many mistakes, because we lack experience. As I say, it will take 100 years; in the past, we thought we could do it in 10. But that was wrong.

"However, our direction is right and our country is united.

"You know, external hostility can be a good thing. It makes us stand up together.

"No outsiders can give us protection, in fact, because they always attach conditions and want to control us."

#### Mentions Blockade

"In a way, we must thank those who blockade us (U.S. ships in the Formosa Straits) because we can then turn to our people and say: 'If you don't work and produce more, if you don't study and learn more, those outsiders will move in and control us.'

"This is one of the greatest stimuli China has. Otherwise we might relax and get soft.

"We have diplomatic relations with 40 different countries and we don't want to break off the Warsaw talks. But the U.S. must take the first step, must make a gesture. Otherwise, nothing will result.

"As time goes on, China feels more secure and other countries will probably have more problems. Our harvest will be much better this year, though it must be pointed out that we still regard our living standards as low."

**On Revolution**—"If countries are not ripe for revolution, then China can't do anything about it. However, China will support revolutions against imperialism and oppression.

"This is not to say that we are behind all revolutions.

Castro in 1959 had no relations with us, so therefore you can't blame China for the success of the Cuban revolution.

"China is not the archcriminal behind every uprising. China cannot turn revolutions on and off when she wants to. China can only manage her own affairs.

"Revolutions depend on the people themselves. But China will support foreign revolutions both morally and politically. We are Marxist. We must support them.

"We don't care if we hurt the feelings of the U.S. or even of Mr. Khrushchev. We can't exchange this for our friendship with the oppressed peoples.

"But it must be noted that Chinese troops will not cross our borders to advance revolutions.

"... We have to realize that wars are terrible things. Wars kill people. I've been a soldier most of my life and have seen a lot of fighting. If there is another war, I can tell you now that somebody else can do the fighting. I've seen enough.

"The U.S. has got to realize that we all live on the same globe."

**On Relations**—"There can be peaceful coexistence between sovereign states. This is China's policy. This does not include relations between oppressors and oppressed (a reference to the so-called "national liberation revolts" in South Viet-Nam and elsewhere).

"The U.S. and China have had many conflicts, but we've always been ready to settle our differences by peaceful negotiation. We initiated the five principles together with the Indians at Bandung (the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, Indonesia, which drafted the five-point peace formula) and at Geneva.

"No one can cite a violation of any of the five principles on China's part. Although we believe this, China will resist attack.

"You know, we were against the USSR shipping guided missiles to Cuba. We thought this was a very dangerous move which brought the world to the edge of war.

"Khrushchev is just an adventurer. China was not consulted on this move and we were entirely opposed to it."

#### Opposed Inspection

"We didn't oppose the withdrawal of the missiles, but we did oppose the agreement

which provided for the inspection of Cuba's sites. (This accord between Moscow and Washington was never implemented.) Disputes such as this should have been settled by peaceful negotiations.

"But none of this can alter the fact that there can be no peaceful coexistence between oppressors and oppressed. And when the oppressed people of the world arise, don't blame us!"

"We're not the ones who are acting aggressively. We have imperialist bases all around us. We don't have any bases in foreign countries and we're not blockading anyone.

"For instance, Chinese air space is regularly violated by U.S. and Nationalist Chinese aircraft, and we have a war on our doorstep (a reference to Chiang Kai-Shek's position on Taiwan).

"Yet when we protest, our

Soviet friends blame us and not the imperialists! When they blame us and not the imperialists, they are wrong. When our Soviet friends do not help the oppressed peoples, they are wrong."

**On Admitting U.S. Journalists**  
—"China will not permit journalists to come into the country with their stories already written in their pockets.

"If journalists want to come

in with pre-written stories and send them from inside China, we're not interested. It's no good journalists telling me that they're free to write what they like. I was a journalist once myself and my boss made it quite plain to me that I had to write what he wanted, not what I wanted. In fact, I was lucky if I got more than 40 per cent of what I wrote past the assistant editor.

"Finally, my boss and I had a falling out, and that's how I became a soldier.

"We require reciprocity with the U.S. on the exchange of journalists. There are foreign journalists from the big news agencies already in China. (This presumably refers to Reuters, the British news agency, which is represented in Peking.) But China is under no obligation to accept hostile journalists."