

## Merry-Go-Round

# How China Might Help the U.S.




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**Jack Anderson**

**T**HERE'S an outside chance President Nixon may gain Chou En-lai's help in arranging a Vietnam settlement.

The Chinese Premier didn't foreclose this possibility, at least, during his secret preliminary talks with the President's foreign policy czar, Henry Kissinger.

An agreement might be possible, for example, to form a coalition government with an equal mix of Communists acceptable to Hanoi and non-Communists acceptable to Saigon.

This caretaker government would supervise elections for a permanent government, which eventually would take over South Vietnam.

The President is reported to be hopeful that, with Chinese support, a coalition government can be established in Saigon, thus removing the biggest obstacle to a Vietnam peace.

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**N**OTHING in the secret intelligence reports out of Peking, however, justifies the President's cautious optimism. On the contrary, the Chinese Communist cadres have been told not to expect too much from President Nixon's trip.

The cadres are responsible for spreading the official Peking line throughout China. Their secret instructions stress that the Chinese have been dealing with the United States through Warsaw and Geneva for 15 years.

This has produced no dramatic results, the cadres have been reminded. Therefore, they should not anticipate any signifi-

cant change in Chinese-American relations.

Meanwhile, Richard Nixon, the implacable anti-Communist, is finally facing Chou En-lai, the master Communist diplomat.

As a World War II correspondent, I covered Chou for about three months when he was the Chinese Communist representative at Chiang Kai-shek's court in wartime Chungking.

I visited with Chou in the privacy of his living quarters; I talked with him over Peking duck and moo gu gai pan. Not once was there a break in his impeccable Mandarin manners that would reveal much about the man behind the suave smile.

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**T**HE URBANE Chou has the most disciplined face in diplomacy. With a bland smile or a stony stare, he expresses the mysterious moods of Communist China.

When he beams, as he is now doing upon Mr. Nixon, it means China is on the make. When Chou's face freezes, as it does in the presence of the Russians, it registers Peking's displeasure.

Our experts disagree whether Chou is merely a front man for Mao Tse-tung or now wields the real power in China.

But one thing is certain. Diplomats the world over, who wonder anxiously what the outcome will be of the Nixon-Chou talks, will keep a close watch on the changing expressions of Chou En-lai.