Merry-Go-Round

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Chinese Opposition To Nixon's Visit



- Jack Anderson

HINTS of fierce opposition to President Nixon's forthcoming Peking visit have leaked out of Communist China.

Presidential avant-courier Henry Kissinger encountered no evidence of discord in Peking. Premier Chou En-lai was a model of inscrutable cordiality. But behind the scenes, apparently, Chinese militants are bitterly opposed to welcoming Mr. Nixon to Peking.

They reportedly have objected that his visit will discredit China with the world revolutionary movement. Radicals around the world look to Peking for leadership and look upon Washington as the archenemy. The appearance of President Nixon in Peking, argue the Chinese militants, will disillusion these revolutionaries and weaken Chinese influence in the movement.

Many radicals, apparently, regard the Nixon visit as a sellout of North Vietnam: Hanoi is known to have protested to Peking.

THE REASONING of the radicals is that Mr. Nixon is using the Chinese trip to win reelection and that Peking is playing into the hands of the arch imperialist.

Evidently there is opposition, too, from hard-line military leaders who have been raising the U.S. threat as justification for demanding more and improved weapons. A relaxation of Chinese-American tensions might jeopardize their military preparations.

Washington's vigorous campaign to save Nationalist China's seat in the United

Nations also antagonized some Red Chinese leaders. But the crafty Chou Enlai undercut, the U.S. effort by bringing Kissinger to Peking in the middle of the U.N. debate. This gave the impression that the U.S. was merely offering lip service to Nationalist China while dealing behind Chiang Kai-shek's back with Communist China.

Chou's adroitness in scheduling the Kissinger trip has raised apprehensions in some Washington quarters that President Nixon may be outmaneuvered in Peking.

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