

The President's Prospects in Moscow

by O. Edmund Clubb

..... The President duly journeyed to Peking, but logic had already dictated disappointment. It was entirely apparent that the Nixon men aimed at obtaining China's aid for ending the Indochina war. Premier Chou En-lai had earlier stated that the war had priority for settlement over even Taiwan, but Peking had never shown any inclination to have the war end on American terms.

..... The Prospects for the Moscow trip have consequently been altered in important respects; but one prediction can confidently be made at the beginning: the U.S.S.R. will not now or later undertake to bend Hanoi to Washington's will. Moscow is basically no more inclined than Peking to help President Nixon make Vietnamization work to the satisfaction of American strategic aims. And, other considerations apart, the Soviet Union cannot afford to be less firm than are the Chinese in support of the revolutionary enterprise.

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