

Opinions

Chinese alliance is 'low road'

By Richard A. Viguere
The United States appears headed for a much cozier relationship with the Peking government and another sellout of our longtime ally, the Republic of China (Taiwan). The prospect of an alliance with mainland Chinese warms the hearts of Republican politicians (who want the President to score a foreign policy "triumph" before the election) and big international corporations (who look forward to more trade with the mainland).

But all the rice wine served at all the state banquets ever held in Peking cannot wash away the blood of the 34 to 64 million people killed by the communist Chinese. All the alliances ever made cannot ease the suffering to the Chinese people as long as they must live under one of the most repressive regimes the world has ever seen.

In communist China, more than ten million slave workers are held in a thousand forced labor camps. Millions of Chinese women are being forced to abort "unauthorized" babies and forced to undergo sterilization operations. In many communities, the method of birth control used by each family is posted on a public list and "granny police" are assigned to monitor each woman's menstrual cycles. As many as 100,000 prisoners have been summarily executed in the recent "anti-crime" crackdown. The authorities use psychological torture to force confessions from criminal suspects and political prisoners. Catholic priests -- including a bishop who has lived 21 of his 76

years in prison -- are rotting in Chinese jails for refusing to renounce the authority of the Pope over church affairs.

Don't be surprised if you haven't heard about these atrocities. According to *The Washington Post*, "many China experts and Chinese dissidents believe (there) is a growing U.S. effort to ignore Chinese human rights abuses in order to smooth the way for Sino-American diplomatic exchanges such as President Reagan's trip ... to the People's Republic."

While the communist Chinese live at a bare subsistence level, the Chinese who fled to Taiwan prosper under a relatively free economic system. Taiwan's per capita income is ten times that of the mainland. Among Asian nations, Taiwan's standard of living is second only to Japan's.

Recent moves toward abandoning Taiwan and entering into a U.S./Red Chinese alliance are surprising in view of the fact that Ronald Reagan is president. For years, Reagan was considered one of this nation's strongest supporters of Taiwan; when President Nixon announced his trip to China, he sent Reagan to Taiwan to assure the nationalist Chinese that the United States would not abandon them.

When President Carter repudiated Taiwan and recognized

the government of mainland China, Reagan said, "I've talked of our betrayal of the 17 million Chinese on Taiwan. Haven't we also betrayed millions and millions of Chinese on the mainland who lived with a dream of one day regaining freedom? We have legitimized the denial of their human rights."

In 1979, he said it is "foolish to pretend that the regime in Peking is the actual government of Taiwan." In 1980, as a candidate, he said, "One of the things I look forward to most if I am successful in this election is to re-establish official relations between the United States government and Taiwan." Since taking office, however, the President has acknowledged the communists' claim that there is "one China," not two. He has made no effort to restore official relations which Taiwan and he has promised to abandon our ally by stopping all arms sales to Taiwan at some point in the future.

In 1980, he also promised that "I will do everything to try and perhaps lead the communist nation (China) away from communism." He now has the chance to try. He can reach out to the Chinese people and lend them a helping hand in their struggle to achieve peace and prosperity. But the way to help the Chinese is not by selling weapons or weapons technology to their communist government, or

by winking at human rights abuses.

He can help the Chinese by encouraging their government to expand its experiments in free enterprise and to allow a diversity of opinion to be expressed. Aid from the United States -- financial, military, or otherwise -- should depend on how far China moves toward a free society.

The Red Chinese ask us to overlook their battles with American forces during the Korean War, in which 54,000 Americans were killed. They ask us to overlook the Chinese supplies that enabled Ho Chi Minh to fight the Vietnam War, in which 58,000 Americans were killed; their support (for many years) of the Soviet empire; and their huge recent sales of weapons to the Ayatollah Khomeini, who threatens to cut off our supply of oil from the Middle East.

If they want any help from us, we should expect a lot in return -- not just for us, but for their own people.

Otherwise, it will be obvious that Washington's foreign policy establishment is selling out a loyal ally in order to forge an alliance with one of the cruelest gangs of cutthroats in history. And we will again show Taiwan -- and the rest of the world -- just how dangerous it is to be a friend of the United States.



Farmers represent important minority

By John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau

There are those who say that because farmers comprise less than 3% of this country's population they are in the minority and therefore don't have much impact on the economy.

The truth of the matter is that our nation's biggest industry is agriculture. Farm assets, totaling \$1,049 billion on January 1, 1983 were equal to about 70% of the capital assets of all manufacturing corporations in the United States.

The farm equipment industry provides one example of the impact of agriculture. When a slumping economy forces farmers to reduce equipment purchases, machinery sales plummet, demand for steel nosedives, workers are laid off, less taxes are collected and the entire economy suffers.

The same people who claim farmers don't have an impact on the economy also believe farmers' only job is to produce food and fiber. Granted that is a big part of what farmers do every day, but we wonder how many realize farmers today must also struggle with complicated marketing formulas, depreciation schedules, computers and farm equipment designed by engineers with a Ph.D.

Today's farmer is a modern businessman, often with multi-million dollar operations to manage. From growing of food and fiber to selling it in the retail store provides jobs for 22 million people. That means that agriculture is the nation's largest employer.

How many minority groups can you think of that have that kind of impact on the economy?

Letters To Editor

Planes should be more careful about borders

Dear Editor:
Some problems on the surface are simple to handle, but if you go deep enough they get out of hand. For example, when you own a piece of land you own what's under it, unless some oil experts already claims the mineral rights. But how far down do you own? What brought this up is the problem airplanes and helicopters are having staying inside their own

country's borders. Two U.S. senators in a helicopter on the border of Nicaragua were fired on. A U.S. helicopter was fired on when it strayed into Czech airspace.

Tom Sawyer would have argued it's easy to tell what country you're flying over just by looking at the color. The map he studied in school, when he wasn't playing hookey, showed each country in a different color.

Modern computerized and tevised kids now know the color of a country on a map doesn't mean that country is that color.

Maps are colored to show geography teachers where to point.

But if confused pilots keep edging over the wrong country's border, some real trouble may break out. The answer is: mark off your country's border with line, like high school football fields are marked off.

By the way, how far up does a country's airspace extend? One mile? Two miles? Ten miles? Forever? Way past Jupiter. Law schools of the world can't turn out lawyers fast enough to handle this.
J.A.



"We may have to be here for a while... We're waiting for the Libyan government to evolve to the point where it's ready for civilization."

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