



STALIN
ON KURILE ISLANDS

COMMUNIST INFORMATION SERVICE

CALCUTTA

FIRST PUBLISHED: AUGUST, 1979

Introduction

Of late, a well calculated vile propaganda against Stalin and Stalin's alleged nefarious activities for the creation of "spheres of influence" is being conducted by a section of so-called Marxist-Leninists, especially about Stalin's "annexation" of four Kurile islands. Recently, the New China News Agency (Sinhua) has also reiterated the demand of giving back the Kurile islands to its "rightful owner"—Japan. This has made the issue all the more vile. Strangely enough, the New China News Agency argued that if these islands remain under the control of the Soviet Union, she will then continue to remain strategically stronger and powerful in the Pacific! In the "Chairman Mao's theory of the differentiation of the three worlds is a major contribution to Marxism-Leninism" it is said, "The Soviet Union has forcibly occupied Japan's northern frontiers and territorial seas, and it is posing a growing threat to Japan." (P. 56, meaning the "occupation" of Sakhalin and Kurile islands by Stalin. The Communist Information Service is not interested, at all, what the Soviet revisionist clique will do in the continuing process of imperialist redivision of the world. We are interested in this affair, because behind all this demand of giving back the Kurile islands to Japan lies the falsification of history that Stalin, taking advantage of Japanese defeat and surrender towards the end of the Second World War "occupied" and "annexed" these islands. The Communist Information service will place the facts of the history of Kurile islands before the people and defend Stalin against the calumny of the falsifiers of history.

During his talk with a delegation of Japanese Socialists, Mao Tsetung, following the footsteps of the falsifiers of history and to curry favour with the U. S. and Japanese imperialisms, falsified the history of the Kurile islands and suggested the need and necessity of the rectification of all these "misdeeds" of Stalin in East and West. Regarding the West, the Communist information Service will deal in its forthcoming pamphlet on "Origin of Modern revisionism" Series No 3, *Why was Stalin made a controversial figure ?* We now know that the Party of Labour of Albania raised its just voice against this falsification of history by Mao. The Albanian letter addressed to the C. C. of the CPC and the Government of China known as 28th June, 1978 letter said, "The Party of Labour did not approve of Mao

Tsetung's raising the problem of rectification of border. ...by calling into question the rectification of border... J. V. Stalin was *unjustly* attacked and the accusation levelled by international reaction against him for 'creating spheres of influence' was *backed up*", emphases added'.

At this the Maoists got infuriated. To them the world as well as the history of Marxism-Leninism began only with the emergence of Mao Tsetung. So, in commenting on the above lines of the Albanian letter, the international bulletin of the Workers Communist Party (M L) of Norway—the *Class Struggle*, in its No. 11, September, 1978 issue said, 'The Albanian leaders were afraid that to raise border problems would imply criticism of Stalin. The four *Japanese islands* were *occupied* by the USSR towards the end of World War II. They were not *returned* Japan and are today *integrated* in the USSR. *That this raises objection* to parts of Stalin's policy is evident.... Should we try to *conceal* historical facts?" (emphases added). How honest to historical facts !

Third World Unity—a journal of the Third-Worldist* of India—sponsored by Maoists of CPI M-L, headed by Satyanarain Singh—published from Delhi, approvingly reproduced the Norwegian Workers' Communist Party (M-L)'s article wagging its tail gleefully and dancing in tune with the falsifiers of history.

It appears that both to Mao and his camp-followers "occupation" "of four islands" "of Japan' by Stalin, "not returning" those islands to Japan, and "integration" of those Islands "in the USSR" are the only "historical facts". Maoists should know that the history of these Islands did not begin "towards the end of World War II". It is not the Party of Labour of Albania who is "concealing historical facts". On the contrary it was Mao who concealed historical facts and falsified the history with a view to please U.S. and Japanese imperialisms. Let us hear more historical facts from Stalin himself.

Stalin's Address to The People (on September, 2. 1945.)

Comrades !

Fellow countrymen and countrywomen!

Today, September 2, political and military representatives of Japan signed an act of unconditional surrender. Utterly defeated on sea and land,

and completely surrounded by the armed forces of the United Nations, Japan has admitted defeat and has laid down her arms.

Two hotbeds of world fascism and world aggression had been formed on the eve of the present world war; Germany in the West and Japan in the East. It was they who unleashed the second world war. It was they who brought mankind and civilization to the brink of doom. The hotbed of world aggression in the West was destroyed four months ago and, as a result, Germany was forced to capitulate. Four months later the hotbed of aggression in East was destroyed, and, as a result Japan, Germany's principal ally, was also compelled to sign an act of capitulation.

This signifies the end of the Second World War.

Now we can say that the conditions necessary for peace all over the world have been gained.

It must be observed that the Japanese aggressors inflicted damage not only on our Allies—China, the United States of America and Great Britain. They also inflicted extremely grave damage on our country. *That is why we have a separate account to settle with Japan*, (emphasis added).

Japan commenced her aggression against our country as far back as 1904, during the Russo-Japanese war. As we know, in February 1904, when negotiations between Japan and Russia were still proceeding, Japan, taking advantage of the weakness of the tsarist government, suddenly and perfidiously, without declaring war, fell upon our country and attacked the Russian fleet in the region of Port Arthur with the object of putting a number of Russian warships out of action and thereby creating an advantageous position for her fleet, She did indeed, put out of action three Russian first class warships. It is characteristic that thirty-seven years later Japan played exactly the same perfidious trick against the United States when, in 1941, she attacked the United States naval base in Pearl Harbour and put a number of American battleships out of action. As we know, in the war against Japan, Russia was defeated. *Japan took advantage of the defeat of tsarist Russia to seize from Russia the southern part of Sakhalin and established herself on the Kuril islands*, (emphasis added) thereby putting the lock on our country's outlets to the ocean in the East, and hence also on all outlets to the ports of Soviet Kamchatka and Soviet Chukotka. It was obvious that Japan was aiming to deprive Russia of the whole of her Far

East.

But this does not exhaust the list of Japan's aggressive operations against our country. In 1918, after the Soviet system was established in our country. Japan, taking advantage of the hostility then displayed towards the land of Soviets by Britain, France and the United States, and leaning upon them, again attacked our country, occupied the Far East, and for four years tormented our peoples and looted the Soviet Far East.

Nor is this all. In 1938, Japan attacked our country again, in the region of Lake Hasan, near Vladivostok, with the object of surrounding Vladivostok ; and in the following year Japan repeated her attack in another place, in the region of the Mongolian Peoples' Republic, near Halhin-Gol, with the object of breaking into Soviet territory, severing our Siberian Railway, and cutting off the Far East from Russia.

True, Japan's attacks in the regions of Hasan and Halhin-Gol were liquidated with equal success and the Japanese invaders were expelled from our Far Eastern regions. But the defeat of the Russian troops in 1904 during the Russo-Japanese war left bitter memories in the minds of our people. It lay like a black stain upon our country. Our people believed in and waited for the day when Japan would be defeated and the stain would be wiped out. We of the older generation waited for this day for forty years, and now this day has arrived. Today Japan admitted defeat and signed an act of unconditional surrender.

THIS MEANS THAT THE SOUTHERN PART OF SAKHALIN AND THE KURIL ISLANDS *revert* TO THE SOVIET UNION and henceforth will serve not as a barrier between the Soviet Union and the ocean and a base for Japanese attack upon our Far East but as direct means of communication between the Soviet Union and the Ocean and a base for the defence of our country against Japanese aggression (emphasis added).

Our Soviet people spared neither strength nor labour for the sake of victory. We experienced extremely hard years. But now every one of us can say: We have won. Henceforth we can regard our country as being free from the menace of German invasion from the West and of Japanese invasion in the East. The long- awaited peace for the people of all world has come,

I congratulate you, my dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, on

this great victory, on the successful termination of the war, and on the advent of peace all over the world!

Glory to the armed forces of the Soviet Union, the United States of America, China and Great Britain which achieved victory over Japan,

Glory to our Far Eastern troops and our Pacific fleet, which upheld the honour and dignity of our country! Glory to our great people, the victor people!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell fighting for the honour and victory of our country!

May our country prosper and flourish! Reproduced from - J. Stalin, "On the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union"; Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1952.)

Concluding Remarks

So we see, the historical fact is: Kurile islands belonged to Russia. Japan occupied these taking advantage of the defeat of Russia in Russo-Japanese war in 1904-5. The "historical fact" is: Stalin did not occupy and annex these islands but emancipated and *reverted* to their own positions. It is Mao, and the Maoists can only tell why Mao concealed altogether this fact and falsified history.

If Mao Tsetung can raise of the border questions those arose out of unequal treaty of Aigun of 1868, treaty of Nerchinisk of 1869 and treaty of Peking of 1860 which delineated the northern and northeastern boundaries of present day Manchuria and of Mac Mahon Line and if those are considered quite justified how can then, *reversion* of the lost four islands by the Soviet Union occupied by Japan only forty years ago raise objection by the same Mao and his tails?

You call it annexation of foreign territories? Stalin did not annex an inch of foreign territory. On the contrary he emancipated the territories of the East and West lost prior to and during the October Revolution to imperialists. But the "Socialist" China and "Communist" Mao have, in fact, annexed undisputed foreign territories. Aksai Chin is a glaring example of that annexation of the undisputed territory. Yes, we do admit that sometimes for defence or any other vital reason exchange of territories of two neighbouring countries becomes imperative and in that case two countries negotiate and settle the matters. There are examples in history.

Stalin negotiated with, Finland and exchanged territories of Karelian Isthmus by mutual agreement. But China, like thieves, stealthily annexed Indian territory Aksai Chin and now wants to negotiate for exchange on the basis of an accomplished fact. Does not this raise objection to parts of Mao's policy, which is evidently anti-Marxist-Leninist ?

Why Mao Tsetung, in his talk with the Japanese Socialist delegation did not raise the question of the Liaotung Peninsula and Port Arthur, the important base at the tip of the Liaotung Peninsula ? These were also under the occupation of the Japan since long days and it was the Red Army of the Soviet Union under the leadership of Great Stalin "re-occupied" this Peninsula driving away the Japanese Kwantung army also towards the end of World War II and handed back to its rightful owner—China. Why was this not an "objectionable policy" on the part of Stalin? Because, it was given to China? It was Stalin who compelled Truman to admit and recognise that Liaotung Peninsula was an, "integral part of Manchuria". (See the "correspondence between the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidents of the USA and the Prime Ministers of Great Britain during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45; Vol 2; pp. 261-69; Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1957).

Stalin reconquered the territories of the Soviet Union and China occupied by the Japanese imperialists and handed back the territories of China to the Chinese and retained the territories of Russia for the Soviet Union and integrated in the USSR. Where is the wrong in it?

"It is our duty to teach the workers to be "indifferent" to national distinctions, there is no doubt about that. But it must not be the indifference of the *annexationists*. A member of an oppressor nations must be "indifferent" to whether small nations belong to *his* state or to a neighbouring state or to themselves, according to where sympathies lie: without such "indifference" he is *not* a Social Democrat."

(—Lenin, "The discussion on self-determination summed up ;" all emphases are of Lenin's.)